

AN
IMPARTIAL RELATION
OF SOME LATE
Parish Transactions at *N---k*,
CONTAINING
A full and circumstantial ANSWER
To a late LIBEL entituled,
REMARKS
ON A
BOOK
ENTITLED,
An ACCOUNT of the DONATIONS
to the Parish of *N-----k*.

*The Lip of Truth shall be established for ever: but a lying
Tongue is but for a Moment.* Prov. xii. 19.

————— *Mutato nomine, de Te*
Fabula narratur. —————

HOR.

H

7

ten
sta
W
is t
Oc
Th
fur
fra
Me
sta
of
nee
For
wh
pos

fou
Ple
hav
cide

fica
wo
W
we
Th
and

T H E

P R E F A C E.

TH E Dissentions between Persons concerned in parochial Affairs are of all Subjects the most difficult to be rendered entertaining ; or thrown into a Form, in which they may engage the Attention of the Reader. There have not been wanting Instances, indeed, in which Scandal has supplied the Place of Wit, and Detraction stood in that of Entertainment. This is the very Case in regard to the Pamphlet which has given Occasion to these Remarks ; there does not appear any Thing to recommend it, except the Violence of the Censures, and Freedom of the Defamation with which it is fraught. It has made its Way by the Author's clandestine Means into a great Number of Hands ; and may have stamped very unworthy Impressions on the Hearts of many of the most Charitable and Candid : These, however, will need only the Appearance of Truth to be convinced of its Force ; and to banish with a just Detestation Opinions, which nothing less than a Heart the most corrupt could possibly have suggested.

We cannot doubt but that the Proofs of Innocence, founded on indisputable Facts, will be read with more Pleasure, as well as more Attention, than Censures which have had no Foundation at all, and which no one real Incident vouches for.

We could wish to have the Praise of throwing our Justification into a pleasing Form ; but we are ambitious of a worthier Applause, from the giving it a strictly just one : We are not without a Sense of the Advantages of Wit, but we dare prefer to it Truth in all its unadorned Nakedness. There is an easy Way of answering things superficially, and in the general ; and turning Matters, even if they had

Justice on their Side, into a pleasant Ridicule : But the Nature of our Injuries calls for a more solid, a more strict, and substantial Treatment of the Author of them. The Charge upon us is so inexpressibly unjust, and the Words in which it is laid so studied for Mischief, that we cannot think we do ourselves Justice, if we do not follow the Author Step by Step, examine his Work Expression by Expression, and give not only a full, but a clear, and an irrefragable Answer to every Period.

Truth is on our Side in a Manner so full, so particular, that till we have laid it before the World's Eye, it is impossible for any one to conceive that the Effrontery of Man could have advanced any Thing against it : And it may give the candid Reader some Idea of the Merits of the Cause on either Side, that we observe thus early in our Answer, that there is not a single Article of the Charge in the whole Libel that is not in the succeeding Pages proved a false one, from Testimonies that need only to be seen, to prove they are unanswerable ; nor is it too uncharitable a Conclusion to add, that there are very few, which the Author himself did not know to be false when he advanced them.

When People who are no more than *Innocent* are traduced, it becomes the Duty of every Man, who knows what will do Justice to their Character, to declare it ; and the Public, who have received the Slander with Regret, will accept the Vindication with Pleasure. But the Case here is of a more aggravated Nature, the Persons accused are not only *Innocent* but *Meritorious* ; and the very Things, which are made the Subject of the Censure, are those for which they have merited the Applause of all who were concerned.

This we can be bold to say has been the Case of the Family principally defamed. It is given out throughout the Libel, that one of the great Crimes of that Family has been the Violation of the L—d Ch—r's Decree : Now, as it is most certain, that there has not been the least Foundation for such a Charge, it has been thought proper not only to defend them occasionally against that Charge, but to place the Improbability of it in a just Light, by relating the real and extraordinary Service this very Family were at in the obtaining it. After this the Probability of their violating it in so wanton a Manner, as is represented in the several Parts of the Libel, will appear in the same Light with the several other Charges in it.

The

The P R E F A C E.

v

The Book against which we are to vindicate ourselves, consists of *Misrepresentation of some Facts, Concealment of others*, and absolute *Fiction of many*; which last is the highest Degree of a defamatory Report: Nay, it is not only with the most infamously *false Assertions* that this Author has attempted to blacken the Accused: When it would have been too bare-faced and gross to use these, he has had Recourse to *Suggestions* as false and groundless, yet he expects both to be believed; and it is an unhappy Observation, that the Credit of an innocent Person is often as deeply wounded by the most unjustifiable Suspicions, as it could be by the best grounded Accusations. What Innocence, what Virtue, can guard against the Attacks of such an Enemy?

But the *Insolence* of the Attempt seems also equal to the *Baseness* of it. These Misrepresentations are of Facts, many of them done in the Face of Day, and at the public Meetings of the Parish. What a Degree of Effrontery is this! To address to the People of a Parish an Accusation of Persons, whom they are sensible have deserved their Thanks; And to found the Charge on Things represented as Crimes, which have been acknowledged Obligations. But the Design of the Author of the Remarks went farther, than might have been guessed at first Sight. He did not regard what might be said of his Attempt in the Parish: He knew those at a Distance could not be acquainted with the true State of the Case; he wrote his Book principally with the Intent to deceive them, and from the Nature of his Accusations he flattered himself he must succeed. The Author knew that a Representation of Facts, which are pretended to have been done before Numbers of the Parishioners at their Meetings, was a tacit Appeal to them for the Truth of what he had asserted; and he was sensible of the Weight which that Consideration must have with Strangers.

Before we enter on this Subject, however, it is incumbent on us to vindicate ourselves in the doing a Thing, so very disagreeable to us as the engaging in the Task of refuting an Author, the only proper Treatment of whom might seem to be the Hatred of the World, and our Contempt: But though such a groundless Charge in general might demand no farther Notice than that, yet there is something so peculiarly Malicious, and so industriously Mischievous in this, that the candid Reader will find that we could not in Justice to ourselves decline an Answer. It is true that the Character of the Libeller might be judged sufficient to condemn all he says of Falshood, and that of the

Persons attacked might also be sufficient to argue their Innocence; and to these we should have trusted in a common Cause: But, in This, the Hardiness of the Author has represented the Nature of the Facts he has charged on us as so open and notorious, and there is also such a vast Multiplicity of them alledged, that People, who knew even all his Malice, might be apt to suppose all could not be Invention; and such as even knew us, might imagine there must have been some little Foundation for such a Load of Censure. Some general Credit might have been given from these Principles; and how far that might have led the deceived Reader to believe many of the particular Facts, it is not easy to say.

The Infamy, which the Author has aimed to lay on the Innocent and Deserving, is eternal. Even, if we could be sure all now living People should treat it as it deserves, what must a succeeding Generation think? The Innocent Descendants of the Accused would suffer on Account of what they could give no Answer to, though their Predecessors so easily might have done it.

This may appear a very honest Reason for an Answer at the Time; but there is yet another that renders it quite necessary: No innocent Person would willingly lye under such a Load of undeserved Infamy; and there is no Way, but this, of wiping it fully off. Even, if the Author had been prosecuted and convicted for the Libel, it could not have cleared them of the Aspersions; since such a Prosecution and Conviction might happen, though all he had said were true. Innocence is dear and valuable to those possessed of it: It is the last of all Things that a Man, who has it, would lose the Reputation of; and there was no Way to assert ours, but by this Answer.

The World, also, in general, cannot be supposed at all acquainted with the Affairs of a private Parish; nor can the Characters of the best Men, in the retired Stations of those calumniated in this Libel, extend itself like that of People in public Employ: A Number of People, therefore, at a Distance from the Place, and wholly uninformed of the Reputation of the Persons, otherwise than by the Work which libels them, may naturally suppose them such as they are there represented. Nothing, therefore, for these several Reasons, could be more necessary, than a Vindication; and in a Method as public as the Charge.

It is now three Years since a Pamphlet, containing an Account of the Donations to the Parish of N—, was published,

lished, with Intent to make what was the general Interest generally known. But as the libellous Author has insinuated very false and unjustifiable Motives to the writing the Book of Donations, it may not be improper to declare, in a few Words, what were the real Motives to the doing it.

The Author of these Remarks had for many Years been borrowing, and by all other possible Means getting into his own Hands, and those of his Agents, the Papers relating to the public Charities: He had so far succeeded in his Attempt, that he began to set himself up as the Oracle, and the sole Interpreter of the Charity Laws of the Parish. The Trustees, whenever an Order or an Account was to be signed, received their Information from him; and submitted to be guided, not by their own Reading and Judgment, but by the Explanations of this important Teacher.

When the M-y-r and Ald-m-n, as well as the Body of the Parishioners in general, were thus not only rendered ignorant of the Nature of the public Trusts, but every Artifice was used to keep them from the Means of Information, the Ch-w-n defamed so basely in this Libel stood up in Opposition to such evidently selfish and interested Designs. He used his utmost Diligence to collect and methodize an Account of the Charities, which contained the original Deeds and Wills, as well as a late Decree in Chancery regarding these Estates: And was at the Expence of having his Account printed and dispersed through the Parish, to inform the Inhabitants of their Claim to the public Estates, of the Uses to which they were appropriated, and the Hands into which the Management of them was given; and to secure this Knowledge to the Parish for ever.

It is no Wonder that an Attempt of this Kind exasperated the disappointed V-r against him; but it made every just and good Man in the Parish his Friend. These were the real Motives for the publishing the Book of Donations; and this, as well as other his public-spirited Endeavours to serve the Parish, were the real Causes of the Libeller's Resentment against this generous Ch-w-n.

The compiling this Account of the Donations could not be done without some Trouble; nor is it doing more than Justice to say all the necessary Pains had been taken to render it perfect: It is impossible even to conceive that any private View could be intended to be answered by it; nor was it received otherwise than as it had a Right, as a Thing meant for public Benefit.

We are apt to believe that no Human Work was ever wholly perfect, nor was it to be expected of all others in a Thing of this Kind, liable to so many Circumstances, the least of which might alter the very Purpose and Nature of a Grant. However, one only Mistake was observed in that printed Work, which was an Omission of three Words; but it was no sooner discovered than it was set right, at the Conclusion of another printed Piece, distributed as publicly as the first, and in a very little Time after the Dispersion of it. This, however, is the single Error the Author of the Remarks upon the Book of Donations could find to cavil at. He sets out, in his Preface, with publishing this Error, which he prosecutes at large in his Book; conceals the Circumstance of its having been set right before he wrote his Remarks; and bestows all the Venom of a poisoned Tongue, all that could be suggested by a malevolent Heart, upon the Man who could be guilty of so trivial an Oversight. But when we come to answer the Charge in the Course of this Work, it will appear that even this Oversight was not the Author's; and likewise, that this very Circumstance was known even to the Libeller himself, long before the Publication of this his famous Performance.

The Mistake in the Book of Donations is no more than of three short Words, relating to a House in *N—*, given by one Mr. *C—ll—w—d*. This makes but a very small, an inconsiderable Part of the Donations, which are the Subject Matter of that Book, the whole of which are very large. The Accuser is not able to place to the Account of the Author, whom he labours so strenuously to misrepresent, any the least Oversight in Regard to the Great Trust-Estates of *M—s*, *B—n* and *P—t*; nor any Misrepresentation even in Regard to any of the other smaller Charity Estates.

This Instance of Disingenuity in the angry Author of the Remarks gives a Specimen of the Spirit with which he has written to those who were to suppose Honesty, and a Regard to the public Good, were his Motives; and every other Article of his Charge will, in the Course of the ensuing Treatise, be proved to have as little Truth for its Foundation, and as little Candour in the Manner of relating it.

The original Treatise, the Book of Donations, was evidently written with no other View than the Good of the Parish, and was therefore distributed in the Parish. The Author of the Remarks pretends in his Title that they
were

were printed for the real Use and lasting Service of the Parishioners; a tacit Insinuation, that the Book remarked upon was written only with Intent to deceive and abuse them: But let Impartiality speak when the Circumstances have been laid down. The Pretence of the Book being written for the Service of the Parish destroys itself; If the Facts alledged in it were true, they must have known them as well as the Author, nor could have needed his Information. Even in that Case, this Method of publishing them would have been uncharitable; but as they are false, what Name is harsh enough to express the Attempt? Accordingly the Work, though with this fair Title, this Pretence of intended Service to the Inhabitants of N——, was not, when printed, distributed at N——, the only Place where it could be of Service, if it had been of any Value; but it was clandestinely dispersed about *London*, sent to the Houses of eminent Persons, and every possible Way introduced, where it could do the Author of the Book of Donations Injury, without any Regard to the People whom it pretended to be written to serve. The Publication of it was not restrained to *London* in particular. It was familiar among the principal Inhabitants of *L—nc—n*, *R—tf—d* and many other Places, before it had ever been heard of at N——; and in Consequence the Characters of the Persons defamed had been attacked in this unfair, as well as unjust Manner, in a Number of Places, before they had an Opportunity of knowing any thing of it, perhaps in many more than they are yet apprized of, and where this Vindication may never appear.

Surely it is not concluding too hastily, to infer from this, that the Intent of the Remarks was not to be of Service to the Parish, but to blacken by known false Aspersions the Character of the Author of the Book of Donations, and of Others with Persons who were Strangers, and at such a Distance that a Justification might never reach them.

The Remarks were, some of them, at length, and last of all, dropped at N——. The Author hoped to prevent a Discovery of the Falsity and Baseness of them, 'till the Impressions had been made, and the Discourse on this Subject was over. The People of N—— must know every Article of the Charge to be false; and he imagined there were very few of them that would not have instantly said so: It was his Business, therefore, to get it received every where else first; and to have the Mischief rooted in Mens Minds, before any Persons, who were Judges of it, could say any Thing to contradict it.

However,

However, it is not easy for the Author of Scandal to prevail with his Friends to propagate it, when the Characters against which it is levelled are perfectly innocent. This was the Case at N——. The very Friends of this Author knew how unjust his Accusations were, how innocent, how meritorious the Persons accused. They saw there was so much Injustice, as well as Inhumanity in them, that they thought the most friendly Office they could do to Him was to suppress them; and in Consequence of this, tho' several of his Friends had them, they were scarce talked of at N——: All that they could do in so flagrant a Case, was to be silent.

It frequently happens that what is intended as an Injury becomes a Benefit, and, notwithstanding the false Appearances under which Things have hitherto been covered, perhaps it is not too much to say, that this Censure, with all its Vehemence, when the Case shall be explained, becomes converted into Praise. If all this Rancour, if the most strict Scrutiny under the Hands of one well informed of the Subject, and full well inclined to find Fault, has been able to discover only one Error in the whole Book, and that a small one, and already set right, does it not evince that the Book itself is really a fair one, and must be of Use to the Parish? Applause that is extorted from Enemies is sure to be sincere, and the involuntary Confession of the Author of the Remarks is certainly such.

The Author, in his Libel, pretends to speak with great Respect of all those who have been Benefactors to the Parish: Mr. H—n the Ch—w—n is by his Book of Donations, publish'd at his own Expence, and dispersed among the Parishioners, to inform them of their true Possessions and Interests, become one of those Benefactors. How inconsistent then, even with this Author's own Principles, is it to abuse him? And how superlatively base to make this very Book one of the Occasions of doing it?

But the very Readers of the Book of Remarks, who are most the Friends of the Author, most interested in his Cause, are not to be perswaded, that this single Mistake in the Treatise he falls so vehemently upon, could be the Ground of all his Exclamation: What then are they to judge was the real Foundation of his Remarks, a Work of 78 Pages besides the Preface? This we are to learn from the Remarks themselves. On examining them we find, that notwithstanding the Title, pretended to be *Remarks on the Account of Donations*, this Book is not the Sub-
ject

ject of them: That is given up, as affording no other exceptionable Passage, besides that already rectified; the Remarker lets alone the Work itself, to fall on the Preface; he quits the Subject, to employ his Rancour against the Man. The Charge is on this Occasion double: He insists that many Things delivered in that Preface were not recommended for the Sake of public Good, but to be of Service to the Writer and his Family; and that the Author, while himself was in the Office of Ch-w-n, did not act up to the Principles of an honest Trustee, which he had laid down in that Preface. These two Things are asserted as boldly and as roundly as if they were Truths; but they will share the Fate of the rest of the Work, when they come to be confronted with Evidence in the Course of this Reply.

There cannot be a greater Mark of the low Cunning this Author is so eminently possessed of, than the Manner of ushering his Work into the World: To introduce it with some Degree of Decency, a Title is contrived, which has no manner of Connection with the Book itself, nor any Relation to it. For it is not a Book of Remarks on the Account of the Donations, but a Collection of various Kinds of Scandal on various Subjects, in which the Author has found Means to draw in and abuse the Name of the Person who wrote that Account, and the Names also of many other worthy and disinterested Inhabitants of the Parish.

There is another Piece of Address also in the Title Page of this notable Performance, which is too much of a Piece with the former to escape our Notice: This is the asserting that it is written by a M—r of P—t. This, indeed, is a Way of stamping a Mark of Value and Importance on the Outside of a Work, which its Author is conscious has none within it. It cannot be accused of Want of Meaning; but, when we consider the Nature of the Assertion, we cannot but acknowledge that there is great Want of Honesty in it; and when, on looking into the Work, it appears impossible to miss discerning who is its real Author, and that he has no Right to the Title he assumes, he must also be accused of Want of Wisdom who put it there. But he even forgets himself so early as in the seventh Page, where speaking of the Affairs of the Parish of N—, he lets slip the unlucky Expression, *brought upon Us*. This convinces us sufficiently how false a Disguise the Name of a M—r of P——t was for the Calumny. Heaven forbid that we should live to see the Members of that honourable
House

House employing themselves in the propagating anonymous Scandal and Falsehood; and we cannot but think the ascribing an Act of so much Meanness as well as Baseness to a Member of that august Body ought to be cognizable by that House, and punish'd as it deserves.

The Author, in his Preface, has introduced his imaginary Self as this M—r of P——t passing through N——, where calling at an Inn he meets with a *Landlord, a very sbrewd Fellow*, who lets him into the History of the whole Town, we suppose, while the Chamberlain is pulling off his Boots. We are not in a Humour to deny it, if any Body should have the Courage to assert, that there is in N—— a Landlord who excels in Loquaciousness, nay, who could utter Fallities as fast as a certain Reverend Friend of his could suggest them.

But notwithstanding the Title this Writer has assum'd, and the pretended Method of his receiving his Information, all the Country are very well convinced who he really is. This is, indeed, a Circumstance about which there happily never has been any Doubt; the Work itself, and its honest Tendency, sufficiently discover it: And if there could have been any Doubt of this from the Nature of the Thing itself, the People employed in that Office would have clear'd the Doubt.

As a drunken Man often betrays himself by over-acting Sobriety, so he who is conscious of Guilt often lets the World into the Secret by the round-about Methods he takes to conceal it. The Author of these Remarks, conscious that there was nothing to be found in them but Defamation, attempts to cover the Abuse by contradicting it in his Title Page; he says in that, his Remarks are *not printed for the Abuse of the Parishioners*, an awkward Assertion, that alone would lead any judicious Person to suspect that they were: And what must the candid Reader, when he finds, on the Perusal, that the Remarks are nothing else but an Abuse of the Magistrates and Parish Officers, think of the Veracity and Candour of the Author? To find the most virulent Invectives against the M—r and Al-m-n of N—— living and dead, the R-c-rd-r and the T—n Cl—k; against a worthy Set of Ch—w—ns, against several of the most reputable Tradesmen of the Town, and of the Tenants of the Charity Estates; more especially against one Family in the Parish, who have eminently distinguished themselves in its Service; and all this in a Book which professes not to abuse

use the Parishioners : What must the Reader think of its Author ?

The Malevolence of his Heart is visible in every Part of his Work. He has represented disinterested and meritorious Actions in the most false and foul Manner, not from any Mistake as to what was the Truth, but from an Eagerness to set the defam'd Ch--w--n and his Family in an ill Light; and to rob the Parish of the good Effects, not only of their former Labours, but of every subsequent Good that any future Endeavours to be exerted by Them or Others might produce. A strange Business this to be attempted in a Book pretended to be written only for the Use of that very Parish !

We are to observe that this clandestine Attack is a second of the same Kind upon the Character of the defam'd Family, tho' upon a quite different Subject. To the former there was published a clear Answer; and as Truth will admit of no Dispute, no Reply was made to it, but the Attack has been now renewed in this altered Form. If we enquire into the general Causes of Defamation, we shall find them to be Ambition, Pride, Malice and Revenge; and to conclude the List of Causes, a Desire in Bad Men to make the Characters of others as black as their own is the most universal of all. These are the common Sources of Scandal; let those who know the Author of these Libels examine his Character, and determine for themselves whether they are his.

It is an Accumulation of Guilt in this Libeller, that he has made it a Point, not only to brand the Objects of his unjustifiable Rage and Spleen with Infamy, but, by the most artful and false Misrepresentations, to set them at Variance with every Body for the future. What could be so base as the attempting, tho' ever so unsuccessfully, to breed Dissatisfaction between them and the Great Personage, of whose Court the Ch—w—n's Father is Steward; the Honourable Person about the R-c rd-rship; the M-y-r and Al-m-n, and many others the best and most considerable People of the Town? This is one of the great Points at which the whole Libel drives.

The general Views of the Author are explained at large in the Course of this Reply; but, in many Cases, he has had conceal'd Views, even in the most apparently trivial Circumstance: It would be hard to say, indeed, whether the Malice and Injustice of the Performance, or the Cun-

ning with which those Purposes have been serv'd, be the greater.

His Attacks are varied in a thousand artful Manners. When his Invention was at a Loss to misrepresent the Action, he has in many Places bent the Force of his Satire against the Motive: But how dares one Man presume to judge thus of the Thoughts of another, when the Action is in itself commendable? We are conscious of the Iniquity of this Proceeding, and of our own Innocence; and we know that those who do well must be content often to suffer ill in Return for it. It is not in any Man's Power to avoid Defamation; Innocence itself is no Guard against it: The Darts will be shot, but it is the Office of Virtue to render the Person, to whom it belongs, invulnerable.

Whatever may have been the private Provocations we have received from this Gentleman, far would it have been from us to have inform'd the World of our Complaints, or of his Injustice; this Paper-War is of his own creating. No *private* Justifications can reach far enough to obviate the Mischiefs of his *public* Accusations; we are, therefore, reduced to a Necessity of answering them in the same public Manner. We are not conscious of any Desire to hurt the Reputation of this Author with those, whom he is at such Pains to be upon a favourable Footing; but if, in the Course of our Answer, some Things may be reveal'd, which his Modesty would wish had been kept secret, he is to impute the Discovery to his own restless Temper, which has prompted him to write Libel after Libel against the Innocent.

The Influence of Scandal is always proportion'd to the Character of the Person who propagates it. From a mean and infamous Author little Injury will happen, even by his asserting Things, that from a more creditable Hand would shake the very Foundation of every Thing worthy in the Person accused: The Innocent will not, indeed, be supposed capable of Ill in so enormous a Degree as it is charged upon us in this Libel, unless the Author of the Charge has a Reputation to support it. To be so represented by a worthy and good Man would be such a Mark of Infamy, that Mankind might receive it as a Notice of avoiding any Commerce with the Persons. In this View of the Accusation, we ought not to content ourselves barely to answer the Charge; we must enquire into the real Character of the Person who lays it, find out truly and certainly who the Libeller

bellor is, and publish his real Motives for doing it, that his pretended ones may be certainly known to be such.

We do not imagine that all the Virulence of this Author's Attack would justify a Return of it in us: The Faults of one Man cannot palliate those of another; and he, who thinks he may, on such an Occasion, plead the Provocation in Excuse, urges the Weakness of his Nature, which it would have been more to his Honour to have conquered, than to own as his Director. But if in any Part of this Piece there shall appear any Thing that seems rather a Charge than a Vindication, we beg the Course of the whole Circumstance may be regarded; and we doubt not but it will in that fair Light appear, as we intended it, not a particular Charge, but a general Vindication. Comparisons, we very well know, place every Thing in the justest and fairest Light, but neither is this all our Reason: Wherever a Charge of this Kind is found, it will appear, to arise naturally from the subject Matter; to shew that no future Good was prevented by setting aside the former Trustees; or to lay a Foundation for the more easily comprehending the full Extent of many of the Accusations and the Answers. A Gentleman, who is pompously celebrated in the Libel, has been pleased to applaud that shameful Performance, and to declare that every Word of it is true. We hope this has been rather done from a Fondness of his own Praises than any real ill Will to us; we shall not take Pains to be ill-natured, tho' we must say what is necessary to prove that the Accusations, the Truth of which he has vouched for, are false and groundless.

It will be necessary, in Justice to ourselves, to search in many Cases to the Bottom of this Attack; to lay open in general the Grounds and Motives of the Libeller's Enmity to those Persons, in order to blacken whose Character he has taken the greater Liberty, as he had not a Reputation himself to be hazarded by it. In many Cases where the Facts wear a false Face, it will be our Duty to throw off the Disguise, and shew them without the Mask this artful Writer has hid them under; and to shew what were his real Designs in Assertions, where the covered Meaning has been at once more false in its Foundation, and more mischievous in its Event than the more obvious one.

It will be always with Pain that we submit to this necessary Step; we know that to delight in speaking ill of another is a Proof of a Man's being himself bad: But where the unjust Aspersions cannot be otherwise clearly wip'd off,
where

where calumniated Characters can by no other Means be reinstated, we must be obliged to make our Tenderness give Place to Justice. On this Occasion we shall sometimes find it proper, however disagreeable to our Antagonist, to go to the Bottom of Facts, of which he has cunningly touch'd only the Surfaces; and where this hurts him, he must submit to it, under a Consciousness that he has not only deserv'd, but provok'd it.

The Character of every Individual, and that of Societies and Bodies of Men instituted for beneficial Purposes, is dear and valuable: Every Man, and every Body of Men, feel the Injury intended against them, though they have not deserv'd it; there is something in conscious Innocence that abhors and condemns the Practises, that the Guilty aim at its Destruction. They, who think it worthy their utmost Endeavours to acquire an honest Reputation, will think it worth some Pains to preserve it; and when they exert themselves in its Defence, Truth will, at his bare Appearance, destroy all that has been ever so daringly advanced against it.

The Generality of People, acquainted with the Facts and Persons, are already convinced that we are injur'd. The known bad Character of the Libeller, and the fair and un sullied Reputation of those he has defam'd, Truth, and the Nature of the Things themselves, all pleaded for them before with those who had Opportunities of being inform'd of them: But it cannot be so with Strangers; they must continue misinform'd, 'till this Answer produces the Truth before them.

We need only relate Facts as they are, in order to prove that not only the Actions, but all his Designs and Intentions of the Persons accused in this Libel, as Enemies to the Parish, were such as spoke them true Friends to it; were laudable in themselves, and were such as in their Events must have been more effectual, and of Service in every Respect to the Place, had they not been constantly oppos'd with all the Vehemence of Malice by one Man, under whom the Cognizance in Part fell.

This Person has been unluckily one of the Trustees, and in that Capacity has made it a Point to oppose every Attempt toward the setting Things on such a Footing, as would most benefit the Parish; and this not upon any real Difference in Opinion as to the Consequences, for they were too obvious for any rational Creature to mistake, but from self-interested Views; and has constantly attempted the putting

ting the Affairs of the Parish, so far as they related to him, in such Situation only as could best answer his private Purposes.

'Tis strange that Attempts, the direct contrary of these, should be ascribed to the same vicious Principle: Yet one great, one continual Charge upon the Family, whose Characters are so unjustifiably aspers'd in this Libel, is that all their Actions have been owing to mercenary Principles; that Suits and Leases are the Business and the Gains of a Family in which there is a Lawyer. From hence he has, as readily as if he had prov'd the Fact, proceeded to represent them as rapacious and mercenary: Their known Character will sufficiently refute this on the Spot; and 'tis not much to the Credit of this Author's Veracity, that we affirm, with all that Boldness which becomes conscious Innocence, that no one knows better the real disinterested Character of this Family, than he, who has, against such Knowledge, aspers'd it in so unfair a Manner.

There is another Reason, a much more feeling one on the Author's Part, for his being an Enemy to Leases; this natural Antipathy of his to every Thing of that Kind will be explain'd in its Place. We very well know, the Author of the Remarks has no Desire to have his Actions confronted with their real Causes, nor have we Severity enough to take a Pleasure in doing it: But he must remember that he has rendered it unavoidable in the necessary Defence of the Injured, that it was in his Power to have acted on honest Principles, and even after this, 'twas in his own Choice whether he would provoke us to give the World an Account of these.

There is not in all the Catalogue of Vices any one that is more universally or more justly detested than Ingratitude: This will be necessarily charged upon the Author in the Course of this Answer. But he has not stopp'd here: Mr. H--n the Father, to whom he has been very ungrateful, is also treated by him in a most gross, insolent and unjustifiable Manner. Slander, causeless and unprovok'd, added to a base Ingratitude, is like nothing but the butchering Cruelty of a Street-Robber, mangling in Wantonness the Body of the unhappy Passenger whom he had robb'd, and whose whole Offence was the falling in his Way.

Things, like these, in their own Nature odious and hateful to the World, we cannot divest ourselves so far of Humanity as to take a Pleasure in revealing, even against a most violent Enemy, who has us'd every unfair Stratagem to in-

jure us ; but in Justice to ourselves we must go through it. Every Circumstance of the Conduct of the Writer will tend to explain the Causes of his Slander ; and the World, that has been affronted with so false and groundless a Charge, has a Right to every Thing that can but tend the least to set it right.

We are sorry to find this Reply swelled into a Length, which has not only taken up too much of our Time in writing, but will engage too much of the Reader's also ; but the Variety of Accusations in the Libel, and the Number of Circumstances misrepresented in it, have rendered the Transgression unavoidable. The candid Reader will remember that Wounds are soon given, but the Healing them is a Work of Time : Mischief is swift, the Reparation slow : A few Words will often serve to convey a Charge, when many Pages must be employed in answering it. A Simple Negative, indeed, is easily given, but it may be false as well as the Thing it contradicts : We do not intend barely to assert, but to prove our Innocence ; and to this End Circumstances, Facts, and Accounts of preceding Transactions will often be necessary.

We had, at one Time, thought to answer only the more material Articles of the Charge ; and to have expected, that when these were prov'd false, the lesser ones would have been equally discredited : But upon farther Thought it was judged more adviseable to answer all. This is sufficiently easy as they are all equally false, the least as well as the greatest : And it was determined the most effectual Way to put an End to the Defamation at once, as the Author, had we omitted any the most trivial Articles, would probably have insisted on our Silence on these Heads, as Confessions that they were true. But we have still a further Reason for being thus particular, which is, that one Thing very much explains another all the Way. We are sensible that the paying this Regard to the more trivial Articles will make this Reply tedious ; but it is better to be so at once, than to have Occasions of being troublesome again. With the Intent to put an End to this unequal War, we have been at some Pains to fix this last Libel on the Man, who is the real Author of both ; that, when his true Character is made to appear, he may be made sensible of his own Share in the Censure, and, if that be possible, blush at once at his Baseness and his Folly.

It is somewhat strange that such a Load of Calumny, such a Multitude of Accusations, should come all at once against

a Family, who are not conscious they ever were accus'd of any Thing before. Were they such People as they are represented, surely they would have been at one Time or other privately admonish'd of it ; but this never happened : We appeal to the many Friends and Well-wishers to the Persons accused, whether any one of them ever heard it even whisper'd in private, that it was to be wish'd they would not act in a Manner so dishonest and fordid in the Trust Affairs, as they are now represented in the Libel to have done : Whether, on the contrary, they have not always approved their disinterested Behaviour, and have heard the same commended by others.

We have the utmost Reason to hope, that all, who have met with the Charge, or who have but heard so much of it as may give them a wrong Impression in regard to the Persons traduced in it, will pay so much Regard to Truth and Justice as to hear the other Side. We beg that all, who have believed us guilty, will give us an Opportunity of proving we are innocent; and when they have read the whole, pronounce who it is that deserves the Severity of their Censure.

It has been the old Subterfuge for defamatory Writers at all Times to use the Initial and Final Letters of the Names or Offices of the Persons traduced ; and the Author of all this anonymous Scandal has kept up to the Practice of his Brother Libellers in this Respect. He declares his Disapprobation of the printing Peoples Names at length, when any Thing unjustifiable is charged upon them ; but we would ask him, What is the Difference, when the Facts are limited to the small Extent of a single Parish, and the Initial and Final Letters belong to no other Persons there but those he meant to represent by them ? Hypocrisy is not one of the smallest Virtues that go to form this mighty Character ; but we shall answer him, that the Persons intended by those Letters are as universally known by them, as if he had filled the intermediate Blanks, as perfectly as he is known to be the Author, which he must give us Leave to assure him is as perfectly as if his Name had been to the Title Page, and he had himself acknowledged it. Those who know the Author personally need but read half a Page any where in it, to be assur'd that no body but himself could have produced it : There is no Doubt of its being genuine and authentic, there is not a single Passage that can give any Doubt of its being spurious ; 'tis throughout in Character ; the Candour and Truth of it are quite equal to those in the

Breast of him who wrote it; the Offspring has every Lineament of the Parent's Face.

The Industry that he has employ'd in compiling, and the Expence he has been at in giving away this Heap of inconsistent Scandal, would have been sufficient to have produced Things worthy his Character and Office: What his Genius may be in its proper Sphere, we do not take upon us to determine; but if he has any, almost three Years Application in a good Cause must have produced something that might have been of Benefit to Mankind; or, if this had failed, the Money expended in this base and infamous Attempt, would have purchas'd Books of Piety written by abler Men, the dispersing which would have been much more worthy his Office, than the sowing Dissention and Mischief amongst Friends and Neighbours, especially by such unjustifiable Means as these false Assertions.

Those who have read the Libel will, perhaps, be surpris'd to hear of its having taken up very near three Years of the Author's Life in the Writing. The Author has the Modesty, not to assume the Merit of having employ'd so much of his Time in the Public Service in express Words, but it may be gathered from certain Passages of the Work itself: He tells the World that the Author of the Book of Donations is a Ch—w—n; this, indeed, was the Case three Years before the Publication of this Work, and happily marks the Æra at which it was first in Hand.

It was our Business to be as expeditious as possible, to prevent the Spreading the Poison of such an Attack. What was written in such a Course of Years, we have been obliged to answer in a few Months. The World will not expect labour'd Periods, or Dignity of Language, in a Piece intended only as an Evidence of Truth: If we are deficient in that great Respect, we ask no favourable Thought from the World; but if we adhere inviolably to that, we flatter ourselves that we shall have Indulgence for the Want of any Smoothness of Style.

Candour and Impartiality are the Principles with which we set out with this unpleasing Task: We do not wish to heighten any Thing, but to represent all Things as they are; to remove the false Colours a Writer of a very bad Heart, assisted by a very pregnant Fancy, has thrown over Facts; and to give at once the real Sources of his unfair Treatment, and our Answers to what they have produced. That the World may be assured of his, as well as of the contrary Conduct in our Antagonist, we have added to our Answer

swer both the original Preface to the Book of Donations, which is what he pretends to have remarked upon, and his own Remarks, *verbatim*, printed from his own Book. The Shortness of that Preface will make some Apology for our reprinting it here; and the indulgent Reader will be convinced of the Necessity we were under of doing it to set in a true Light his Quotations from it, which he first misapplies, and then in his awkward Manner attempts to ridicule.

Truth and Falshood never appear so much themselves, as when they are opposed to each other. It is with this View that we could wish to have the Accusation compared with the Answer. This is the only way to be let into the real, consummate Baseness of the Author of the Remarks; to see what is the Truth, and in what Manner this Man of pretended Candour has every where departed from it, or misrepresented it. It will appear how little we are afraid of the most envenomed Attacks of this Writer, when we have an Opportunity of justifying ourselves from them by this our republishing his whole Work: A Work which could come from no Pen but his; and which, when the Circumstances are fairly laid down, condemns him more than any the severest Satire we could employ from any other Source.

It will be found by this Reply to be a Work without any the least Foundation; and the Republication of it will assist us in making the Answer we have given much better understood. There are many Parts in which it might appear too particular, without this accompanying Testimony of the Necessity of all that Punctuality; we may add, that we could scarce expect to be believed, that so much Calumny could be uttered without any Foundation, unless we produced at the same Time the Proof of it; and we may also add, that no Description could properly set forth the vast Extent of the Injury intended; nor could it ever have been comprehended but by the Sight of the Work itself.

There is also another very cogent Reason for our reprinting the Cause of our Justification: We are tender of recriminating; we have said no more than was necessary to place our Accuser in a just Light; yet there are Parts, in which a Reader, who had not seen the Provocation, might think us severe. But we are confident, that, whoever examines the Charge against us, will not find our Answer severe in Comparison with the Nature of the Accusation. An Answer can be but imperfectly understood by those who have not seen the Charge, and we are sensible there are many who may meet with this, who can have no Opportunity of seeing the other, but by our reprinting it in this Manner.

It

It is not saleable at the Shops, nor otherwise to be had ; but such is our Confidence in the Truth and Justice of our Cause, that though it gave us Pain that any should read it unanswered, we now wish the whole World to be Witness to his Treatment, and to our perfect Vindication. We say that we have answered it Article by Article, and that every individual Reflection in it is refuted, every Period considered : But we would not have our bare Word taken for this ; There is now Proof of it. There is this farther Advantage to a fair Writer also in this Method of Proceeding, that the World will see the Accuser has had fair Play, and that all our Citations from him are just. It may be proper to add, that as it did not occur to us to republish the Remarks before our Answer to them was almost wholly printed, we have referred in the several Parts of our Answer to the Pages of the Remarks as printed by the Author : This Republication, therefore, being in a different Size, we have figured in the Margin of the Remarks the Places where each Page of the Quarto begins with the Number of the Page.

That the material Transactions of our whole Book may be readily turned to, we have divided it into Chapters ; and, besides this, that the whole may be rendered very clear and distinct, we have printed in smaller Capitals the first Word of such of the Paragraphs in each Chapter as are not absolutely dependant, and a Part of the preceding Subject. We have also prefixed to our Vindication a Table of the Contents : By these Helps, and as we have answered the Accusations in the same Order as they follow each other in the Remarks, the Reader will find it easy to turn to the Answer to any particular Article of the Charge ; and will see that our Impartiality is not affected, but real, and is such as the Truth of our Reply, and the Innocence and Integrity of our Actions inspires.

THE CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

AN Account of the Trust Estates at N—. The Origin, Prosecution, and Event of the Corporation Suit. The great Services of Mr. H—n the Father in that Cause ill requited. Page 1

CHAP. II.

Power of the Ch—w—ns by the Decree. The V—r's Management of the Trust Estates. The Ch—w—n Choice, which set aside his Dependents. The School-house Repairs. P. 15

CHAP. III.

The History of the Ev—rt—n Affairs. The Trust Meetings occasionally explained; and Charges on Mr. H—n the Ch—w—n, which relate to the P—sh Cl—k, fully answered. P. 23

CHAP. IV.

The History of the Ev—rt—n Affairs continued. p. 35

CHAP. V.

An Account of the Farm at S—dw—h in the Parish of B—lb—h. P. 50

CHAP.

The CONTENTS.

CHAP. VI.

Charges answered concerning the Tradesmen's Bills, offered at the Days of Account and Application for the Estates of M——s and B——n; Also concerning the Iron Chests ordered by the Decree for the three Estates of M——s, B——n and P——t. P. 57

CHAP. VII.

The Charges answered, which relate to the Office Copy of the V----ge Endowment, and the Opinion concerning the Chancel Repairs; wherein the Disinterestedness of the defam'd Family is clearly shewn. 69

CHAP. VIII.

The parochial Right of choosing three Ch--w---ns vindicated; Some extraordinary Misapplications of the Parish and Trust Monies considered; Great Disorders of the Work-house rectified. P. 79

CHAP. IX.

The History of the second contested Ch--w---n Election. P. 94

CHAP. X.

An Account of the Proceedings in the Common-Law and Spiritual Courts. P. 104

CHAP. XI.

The artful Views of the Libel, in charging the defamed Family to be Persons of no Credit, considered; and the Charge proved to be most base and groundless. P. 108

CHAP. XII.

The Charge answered which relates to the Houses in N—— let by the Ch——w---ns for the Term of one-and-thirty Years. P. 114

CHAP.

The CONTENTS.

CHAP. XIII.

The defam'd Family falsly accused of Contempt and Breach of the Decree.

P. 121

CHAP. XIV.

Remarks on the Book of Donations; and very scandalous, unjust Reflections, upon the M-y-r and Al-m-n, clearly answered. The Gratitude of the Remarker to Mr. F-----r not equal to his Commendation of that Gentleman.

P. 126

CHAP. XV.

The Charge upon the much defamed Family, viz. the Ch--w--n, his Father, and Brother, that they had acted in Confederacy to defraud the Poor of the Rents of Mr. C--ll--w--d's House, clearly confuted; and the M-y-r and Al-m-n occasionally vindicated.

P. 135

CHAP. XVI.

The Design of the Book of Donations further explain'd, and vindicated.

P. 147

CHAP. XVII.

The Necessity of the Cautions, given in the Donation-Book, against Extravagancies in Perambulation and Ch--w--n Treats, plainly demonstrated.

P. 149

CHAP. XVIII.

The Incredibility of the whole Libel.

P. 158

CHAP. XIX.

The R-c-rd--sh--p Affair, introduced in the Epitaph and misrepresented in the Postscript, particularly explained.

P. 163

CHAP. XX.

The Conclusion.

P. 168

E R R A T A.

- Page 13. l. 42. *for* Subscriptions *read* Subscription.
15. l. *penult.* *for* ready *r.* hardy.
29. l. 16. *for* attend *r.* attended.
45. l. 43. *dele* Guineas.
48. l. 36. *for* and *r.* or.
66. l. 42. *dele* make.
77. l. 41. *after* concerning *add* Boundaries of
120. l. 32. *for* had always been *r.* was.
132. l. *penult.* *for* new *r.* now.
171. l. 36. *for* that it *r.* which.

A N

Impartial Relation

O F

Some late Parish Transactions at N---,

C O N T A I N I N G,

A full and circumstantial ANSWER to a late
LIBEL, Entitled, REMARKS, &c.

C H A P. I.

*An Account of the Trust Estates at N—. The Origin,
Prosecution, and Event of the Corporation Suit.
The great Services of Mr. H—n the Father in that
Cause ill requited.*

THERE is no way of judging of a Dispute but by being first perfectly apprized of the Subject of it: We have given in the Preface the general Reasons for our engaging in this disagreeable Task of answering Calumny; it was there incumbent on us to shew the Necessity of doing this, and as a proper Preliminary we have given some Hints as to the Inducements the Author whose Work we are to justify ourselves against, had to engage in a Plan at once so dishonest and dishonourable: What we have there said, we only desire may stand or fall as the Proofs we are now about to lay before the World support it; and that every thing may be at once as clear and distinct; as candid and impartial, we shall now lay down plain and simple Facts, which bring their own Vouchers as well as their own Conclusions with them: these we shall lay down in the Order of Time in which they succeeded one another, agreeably to the Author's Plan, whom we are now to answer. And that every Reader may be in a Situation to judge as properly as ourselves of the Revolutions and Changes in this little Community, shall begin with giving an Account

B

count

count, in a few Words, of the Nature, Quality, Intents and Purposes of the several Donations, of the Hands into which they fell, and of the Claims that have been made by others to a Share in the Administration of them.

In delivering the Things which have been the Sources of this unhappy Dissention, and in afterwards going over the Consequences of them, we shall, if not able to divest ourselves wholly of feeling from such unwarrantable Attacks, at least take Care, that no Partiality to our own Cause shall bias us to any Deviation from the strictest Regard to Truth; and resting the whole Force of our Defence upon the Truth of all we assert, call upon those who are Judges of that Truth, as there are many, to acquit or condemn us, as we adhere to, or depart from it.

THERE were in the Reign of *Henry VIII.* two very considerable Estates given to the Parish of *N—*: This was before the Town was incorporated by Charter: The one of them was given by Mr. *M—s*, the other by Mr. *B—n*; they were both left for public and charitable Purposes, as appears at large in the Book of Donations. After this, in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, another very considerable Estate was bequeathed to the Corporation, then the Ald—n and As—ts by Mr. *P——t*; this was also given for the Purposes set forth in the same Book.

These several Estates had all, in course of Time, fallen under the Management of the *M--y--r* and Ald—n, to the Exclusion of some other Officers, who were originally joined in the Trusts.

The Estates of *M—s* and *P—t* having been destined principally to the Foundation of Schools and an Alms House, such were accordingly established, and have always been supported. In a Course of Years these Estates became more valuable; the Produce much exceeded the yearly Salaries and Allowances; the Surplus consequently was greatly encreased, of which Surplus the *M-----r* and Ald—n took to themselves the Management and Disposal.

The Produce of the Estate left by Mr. *B—n* had never been appropriated to any particular Charity; the *M--y--r* and Ald—n therefore had been used to apply the Surplus of the former Estates, and the yearly Income of this, partly in Charities and to other good Purposes in the Parish, and partly in the usual Entertainments which Corporations in all Places are known to have.

The whole Money produced by these Means was always entered in the Account of their Chamberlains, who were annually chosen, and the Accounts were regularly kept by them in great Books belonging to the Corporation, called Couchers. By these it is apparent, that no indirect or clandestine Means were used in the Disposal of this Revenue, but that it was laid out, the greater Part in the Service and Support of the Parish, and no Part of it shared among themselves. This had been the Course of the Management of our public Money from time immemorial.

DURING this, there happened to arise some Disputes between Sir *M.—J—n*, an Inhabitant of the Town, and the Corporation, in Regard to Inclosure; the Dispute produced Law Suits, and these occasioned Sir *M—* to examine into the Trusts of the public Estates. He got Information concerning the Donations, and the Deeds and Wills by which they had been given to the Parish; and he communicated the Observations he had made by dispersing a small Pamphlet amongst the Parishioners, in which he asserted, that the whole Produce of those several Estates ought to be applied to Parish Uses solely; and that the *V—r* and the *Ch—w—ns* ought to be joined in the Management of some of the Trusts. This was a Power which the *V—r* and *Ch—w—ns* had never claimed, or exercised in the Memory of Man.

The Pamphlet, though it did not at that Time make the Impression intended, yet it most probably occasioned the Chancery Suit that was afterwards commenced. The *V—r* could not possibly remain an idle Observer of an Incident, which tended to aggrandize his own Power: He persuaded himself, that he had a Right to a considerable Share of the Trusts, which he was in no Humour to be deprived of. He watched therefore for the first favourable Opportunity, when a Demand might be made and prosecuted with reasonable Hopes of Success. He was not at that Time in a Condition to stand a Law-Suit, which might probably be a long one, with so powerful a Body as the *M—r* and *Ald—m—n*; he made his Application to some of Mr. *H—*'s Family, and so eagerly intent was he on the Subject, on his first Application, that Mr. *S—l F—r* was sent for even out of Church in the Time of Divine Service to talk with him about it.

Mr. *F—r* had married into Mr. *H—n*'s Family. He entreated this Gentleman to go with him to Mr. *H—n*, and to use his Interest to prevail with him to file a Bill in

C——y against the M—r and Ald—n, in order to obtain amore proper Use and Application of these and other public Estates, and to give the Power and Trust into the Hands into which it was intended to be put by the original Donations.

Mr. H—n perused the Papers relating to the Case; he examined every Circumstance with Impartiality; he found there was a Right, where the V—r asserted it, and he engaged in the Cause.

THE two first Considerations were, who were to be the Relators; and at whose Expence the Suit was to be carried on. The Relators in these kind of Suits, by Information, are in the Nature of Plaintiff, and are answerable in the same Manner for the Event and Costs: The V—r and Ch—w—ns were the People deprived of their Power; they therefore were adjudged the proper Persons to be Relators. And it was agreed, that the Expence of the Cause should be raised by Subscription.

NOTHING is more certain than that in the Nature of Things the V—r ought to have been a Relator, and it was absolutely necessary that he should be a Party in the Suit, as it might otherwise fail for want of Parties: he refused at all Events to be a Relator; and desired he might be charged by the Bill as a Defendant, with the M—r and Ald—n; although his being a Defendant would necessarily occasion a large Expence to defend him separately; whereas his being a Relator with the Ch—w—s would not have been the Occasion of any additional Expence. It appeared very plainly, that by this strange and absurd Conduct, all the Money of his own Subscription, and indeed more to it, must be expended in his own Defence, and that consequently his Subscription would be of no Use to the carrying on the Cause for the Relators; and this was in effect the real Case, and he was a Burthen instead of being an Assistance to the Cause set on foot at his own Instigation. The Subscription of the V—r was therefore to be considered from the Beginning as nothing in favour of the Cause on the Side of the Plaintiffs, but as raised to support his own Expence as one of the Defendants Interest was the first Principle in the Heart of this zealous Reformer, and Security the next. His natural Timidity would not suffer him to expose himself to the least Hazard in the Attempt. He thrust others into the Front of the Battle, exposed his Friends to all the Dangers and Inconveniencies that might possibly attend the

Suit

Suit, and kept himself out of the way of every Thing but the Advantages of it : By this Cunning of engaging himself on the contrary Side of the Cause to that which he wished should succeed, he left himself at full Liberty to be in or out of it as he pleased ; he had it in his Power to act just as suited his Convenience, and if the Cause should go against his Friends whom he engaged in it as Relators, he should by this Artifice stand clear of Costs.

There required some Spirit to engage in a Cause that threatened to be at once tedious and expensive. Mr. *F—r* was the Man who shewed he had all that Warmth and Resolution which are necessary in a good Cause : This Gentleman offered himself to take the *V—r*'s Post as a Relator with the *Ch—w—s* ; and to these latter he engaged his Word, that they should be responsible for no more than their Subscription ; and if any Misfortune, by Miscarriage, Costs, or otherwise, should happen, that he would indemnify them.

This was so bold an Offer, that Mr. *H—n* advised him against it ; he told him he was too rash, and presaged, that if the Suit should become tedious, he would find many of the Subscribers backward in renewing their Subscriptions. Mr. *F—r* saw all these Disadvantages, but he was convinced that Right was on their Side : He confirmed himself in his Resolution, and told Mr. *H—n*, that if he would be Solicitor in the Cause, he would make himself one of the Relators, and do all he had at first proposed ; if otherwise, he said, he would not engage in it at all.

Mr. *H—n*, sensible of the Right and Legality of what they were going about, engaged in it, and the Thing was put in Execution.

THERE were six Persons who subscribed ten Guineas each in the first Subscription, for the carrying on the Suit for the Plaintiffs, beside several other smaller Sums from other Hands. The *V—r* subscribed his ten Guineas also, but that was by no Means to be brought into the Account, as it was all expended, and more of the other Money to it, as had been from the first expected, in the Support of himself as a Defendant. Mrs. *H—n*, her Son Mr. *H—n*, and her Son in-law Mr. *F—r*, were three of the original Subscribers of ten Guineas each to the Cause. When the Subscriptions came afterwards to be renewed, it proved as Mr. *H—n* had foreseen ; some gave it up entirely, and others in Part. It remained in a great measure upon the Family which this

grateful Man has treated with all this Malevolence in his Libel, to support a Cause in which he engaged them and others, and by which himself was to be so considerable a Gainer. Mrs. *H—n*, to supply some Part of the Deficiency, advanced her Subscription to twenty Guineas, and continued to contribute twenty Guineas every Subscription afterwards, except the last, when she subscribed only ten Guineas: nor was her Bounty limited to this; she gave Mr. *F—r*, during the Course of the Suit, sixty Pounds over and above all her Subscriptions, towards the carrying it on; and this, together with her several Subscriptions, amounted to nearly as much as that of all the other Subscribers together, the Vicar's excepted, whose Money, as already observed, was of no Sort of Service to the Cause on the Plaintiff's Part, but was swallowed up on his own Account, as a Defendant. So much did Mrs. *H—n* generously contribute to the Service of the Cause, exclusive of her Son Mr. *H—n*'s Subscription, or rather of the Service he did in the Cause, which was indeed much more valuable than that Subscription, and which we shall now relate.

Mr. *H—n* had engaged himself originally as a Subscriber of ten Guineas; when he delivered his first Bill for what was then done in the Cause, he allowed his first Subscription: But the Bill filed in Chancery, and the other Proceedings being necessarily extremely long, Mr. *H—n*'s Profits in the Suit exceeded his Subscription Money. The Relators therefore thought of a new Regulation, in regard to his Share in the Expence: They desired, that in the Place of his Subscription Money, he would carry on the Cause, without receiving any thing for his own Fees and Trouble, during the Course of the Suit. This was a Proposal that would have startled many People; it was, in Effect, engaging a Man in an additional Subscription, who had already subscribed as largely as any other Person: But Mr. *H—n*, however, made no Objection to it; he readily agreed to carry on the Suit for them on these Terms; and even consented, that if the Cause should miscarry, he would never desire a Farthing Consideration. This was a Piece of Generosity hardly to have been expected, and the Relators accepted it as an Act of great publick Spirit.

The Suit became longer, and more troublesome than could easily have been imagined. Mr. *H—n*, however, never abated of his Spirit or Diligence in it; he took three Journeys to *London*, in Company with Mr. *F—r* the Relator, to attend the Hearings, and settle the Affairs relating

lating to the Cause; who was so well convinced of his Application, and Care of their Interests, that he was promised very handsome Payment, and more especially, as he had now undertaken it upon so generous a Foot.

The Corporation, in their Answer, claimed the Estate of *B—n* as their own; and the Relator's Counsel really thought it was so; but Mr. *H—n* set himself to work while in *London*, and drew up an Argument of several Sheets of Paper, in relation to that Estate only, in order to prove that it must be a Charity. The Event answered his Expectation. The Argument was read to the Counsel, they were convinced by it, and became of the same Opinion. An Estate in a Manner given up became thus, by the sole Care and Application of Mr. *H—n*, restored to the Plaintiffs: and that very Estate is now one of the three great Trusts, and is indeed the principal of them, to which the *V—r* owes Power and Interest in the Place. O Gratitude, what is become of thee! The *V—r* has even acknowledged, since the Time of this Misunderstanding, that it was owing to Mr. *H—n* that this Estate was recovered; and yet this Mr. *H—n* and his Family are the very People whom he is so grossly abusing in his Libel.

WHAT was the Return to these Services on the Close of the Proceedings, in Favour of the Plaintiffs? The *V—r*, with the Assistance of the *Ch—w—n* extolled in the Libel for his Value and Excellence, so contrived it, that Mr. *H—n* was not so much as paid after the Rate of his Subscription, which would have been fifty Guineas; nor for his Fees, Journeys, and Labour throughout the Cause, for which several Times that Sum might have been reasonably charged; though the Costs given by the *L—d C——r* out of the Trust Estates, which amounted to more than six hundred and fifty Pounds, were in Part composed of his very Fees and Labour.

Authors are very apt to bestow their Epithets of Praise, not according to the real Excellencies of the People they flatter, but in Proportion to the Use those great Qualities may be of to them. This excellent *Ch—w—n*, or Trustee, was also appointed Receiver of the Estates, two Posts incompatible, not in themselves calculated to be vested in the same Person. But to proceed, The *R——d* took up a Resolution of having his whole Subscription Money returned; this he could not well take, without seeing all the rest of the Subscribers paid back their Subscriptions also, in

the same Manner, to the full. We believe it was never yet known, that a Party going to Law, though he came off victorious, could repay himself his whole Charges by the Costs given him. The Costs allowed on this Occasion were ordered to be paid out of the Surplus Rents and Profits of the Trust Estates to the Relators: But the excellent Trustees regarded the Decree only as it suited their own Intents and Purposes: They thought proper to pay into the Hands of the Relators three hundred eighty-four Pounds and upwards, which was applied to the defraying the Charges of the Suit, owing to the Solicitor in *London*, and the occasional Expences and Sums laid down by the Relators. It was very proper that all this should be paid, but surely this was not all that was proper should be paid; yet here these worthy, these grateful Managers, stopped Payment. Mr *H—n* the Father, the Solicitor in the Country, on whom the great Labour and Conduct of the Suit fell, who had been so often promised to be handsomely paid, if the Cause succeeded, and who had stood even the Hazard of losing his whole Fees, if it should miscarry, has not yet received any thing: Nor is the Gratitude of the R—d in particular to pass without its due Encomium on this Occasion; He who had first proposed the Suit, who had intreated Mr. *H—n* to engage in it, and who was most of all profited by the gaining of the Cause, took all the Pains imaginable to prevent Mr. *H—n*'s being properly considered with the rest of the Creditors to the Cause, and to persuade the Relators to stand a Suit with Mr. *H—n*, if he should ever bring an Action for the Recovery of his Money. This may serve as one among a thousand flagrant Instances of the Nature of the Obligations of the R—d and of the Sense he has of Favours. He took particular Pains with Mr. *P—r*, the now surviving Relator; he assured him, that at all Events Mr. *H—* had agreed to carry on the Cause for nothing: But this Relator declared that he knew the contrary; That he was very sensible, that if the Cause should fail, the Expence on Mr. *H—n*'s Part was not to be defrayed; but that, if it succeeded, he was to be paid. The R—d was as perfectly convinced of the Justice and Truth of all this, as the Person who spoke it; but Truth to him never appears in so amiable a Light as when it serves his Purposes; he chose to be blind to it for this Time; he pushed his Attempt upon Mr. *P—r*, and when he saw him cold to the Proposal, offered to procure him a Subscription for the supporting him in the Refusal. The worthy and honest Relator was not a little amazed; he replied,

replied, How can I attempt such a Thing against my Conscience? I know he has a Right to be paid. We shall not take upon us to say what Sort of Regard the R—d paid to the Mention of Conscience, or how he thought of a Man who could be frightened by such a Bugbear: Be that as it may, this Relator saw all that was of Weight with him became light as Air, when put into the R—d's Scale; and that he continued determined Mr. H—n should not be paid.

Mr. F—r, the chief Relator, insisted upon receiving the Remainder of the Costs, which had been decreed to be paid to the Relators, that he might discharge in an honest and honourable Manner his Engagements to Mr. H—n, as a Relator; but the V—r found Methods to obviate this. The Decree itself, like every other Consideration, was to give Way to his private Interests, and to be complied with so far as it would coincide with them, and no farther. The R—c—r was ordered to pay the Costs, not to the Relators, as was directed by the L—d C—r, but to pay the Subscribers all their whole Subscription Money. Mr. F—r, whose Merit is very much extolled in the Libel, p. 59. had great Difficulty in the getting his own out of Pocket Expences allowed him by the R—d. Nothing is so clear, as that all the Expences of the Suit ought to have been discharged, before any Division of Money had been made among the Subscribers; but Reason and Justice did not prevail. Every Subscriber had the utmost Farthing of the Money he had advanced to the Law Charges returned him; and the Solicitor in the Country all the while, though he had been at the greatest Pains and Labour in the Suit, had nothing paid him. Most of his occasional Expences were indeed repaid him by Mr. F—r, but not all; he was not paid any thing for the Expences of his third Journey to *London*; nor was this the only Expence out of Pocket, which was not returned him. The Subscribers were repaid their Money at two equal Payments; the one in *January* 1745, the other in *January* 1747. Mr. F—r died a Month or two before the last Division: He exclaimed in his Life-time against the Injustice of the Trustees, in regard to Mr. H—n, who was willing all this while to accept a very inconsiderable Sum, in Proportion to what he would have had a Right to, as his Bil. Mr. H—n had undertaken the Cause upon a very generous Footing, as it was to recover a Charity into the proper Hands; and he continued to act in the same publick spirited and disinterested Manner. Mr. F—r, who had all along exerted him-

self

self in Favour of Mr. *H—n*'s being paid, declared that he would go to the Church on the Day of the second Distribution, and would do his utmost in insisting on the Costs being paid to himself, that so just a Demand as Mr. *H—n*'s might be no longer unsatisfied. The Death of this Gentleman, as already observed, happened before this Day; but had he lived to put his Design in Execution, it would have answered no Purpose: His Son, and the surviving Relator Mr. *P—r*, appeared on that Occasion, and insisted upon what Mr. *F—r* had so often declared he intended to insist upon; but it was all in vain, their Arguments were disregarded: The R—d resolved, that the Money should be paid to himself and the other Subscribers. The Decree had adjudged the Money to be paid to the Relators; but the Order and the Influence of the R—d proved a stronger Law than the Decree itself. According to the Decree, the Money would have fallen into Hands that would have thought the paying Mr. *H—n* a very just and necessary Use to be made of a Part of it; and this, however consonant it might have been with Justice and Reason, was not at all consistent with the Designs, or with the Gratitude of the R---d.

In this Manner was Mr. *H—n* served; he was at first a Subscriber, and was to be paid as the Cause went on; afterwards, on the Value of his Services greatly exceeding the first Rate Subscription, he was prevailed on to undertake the Cause on the Hazard, and agreed to lose all, if it should not succeed: He was promised very handsome Payment in Case of its succeeding, though he never made any Advantage of the Hazard or Delay in his Payment; he never desired or intimated the least Expectation of more than the common Fees: And when the Cause had succeeded, instead of putting the Relators in Mind of their large Promises, he was contented to accept of much less for his Services than must have been paid as a common Bill to Strangers. Very considerable Costs of Suit were allowed by the L—d C—r, a very considerable Part of which Costs were made up of Mr. *H—n*'s Fees; but all that Money was divided among the Subscribers; and the Sums they had contributed were returned them to the utmost Farthing. The Solicitor's Labour in his Profession was as much advanced for the Service of the Cause as the Money of the Subscribers; this could not be returned as Money could, but a Compensation for it might, and ought to have been made; However, he

has not, to this Day, received any thing for his many Years Conduct of, and Attendance on the Cause, though the Success of the whole has, in a great Part, depended upon his Care and Management, and that of what relates to *B—n*'s Estate intirely, as that would have been wholly given up but for his particular Care and Attention, as has been already explained.

The strict Adherence which we shall always maintain to Facts, will not suffer us to suppose the Reader will at any Time suspect us of deviating from, or misrepresenting them; he will naturally, therefore, be asking on such an Occasion as this, what could be the Reason of the *V—r*'s opposing Mr. *H—n* in this violent Manner, in regard to the Payment of a Demand which himself knew to be so very just and equitable? and what extreme Provocation Mr. *H—n* could have given him, to cause his flying in the Face of Truth and Justice, to do him an Unkindness? It is our Business to go to the Bottom of every Action that relates to this Case, as far as we can; and we shall spare no Pains to do so: Just Grounds of Resentment, or real Provocation, he had received none. The principal Cause of his opposing the paying Mr. *H—n*, seems to have been the Desire of having his own Money, as a Subscriber to the Cause, return'd entire, which could not have been, if the Costs had been apply'd as intended by the Decree that gave them; but another Source was Revenge, tho' not a very justifiable one, which, added to the Consideration of Interest, sufficiently establish'd his Determination against Mr. *H—n*. The Success of the first had induc'd him to lay the Grounds of a second Suit against the *M—r* and *Ald—m—n*; but this appearing to Mr. *H—n* to be a cruel Persecution, he had refus'd to be concern'd for him in it. The Nature of this second Attack will be explained in its proper Place, in the Course of this Work; It was only necessary at present to name it, and to observe, that the *R—d*, being convinc'd by Mr. *H—n*'s refusing to be concerned in it, that he was not a Man for his Purpose, determin'd afterwards to shew him no Favour, wherever he should be concern'd with him.

The Conduct of Mr. *H—n*, seems hitherto to have been form'd upon the Plan of opposing his Patience to the other's Fury. He has hitherto bore all his Outrage and Violence, all his injurious Treatment: He has not even taken the ordinary Methods of recovering what is his Due: He would not sue his Sister Mr. *F—r*'s Widow

Widow and Executrix, nor any of the Relators, whose Inclinations were to pay him in a fair and honourable Manner, had they not been unjustifiably depriv'd of the Costs; neither has he yet gone so far as to make any Complaint in Ch——y.

It happened soon after this, that the Son of Mr. *H—n* was chosen into the Office of Ch—w—n; this was made an instant Occasion of Clamour; the *V—r*'s Party were instructed to assert, that he had been elected into that Office, in order to get his Father's Demand paid out of the Estates. But every groundless Supposition vanishes, when the Truth is brought to confront it. Mr. *H—n* took an Opportunity, when his Son was in Office, to declare to the Parishioners in open Vestry, that no such Thing had ever entered into his or his Son's Thoughts; that it wou'd not be attempted; and added, that he had no proper Demand out of the Estates.

Such has been the disinterested Conduct of Mr. *H—n*, and yet himself and his Family are to be libell'd and defam'd by an anonymous Writer; and to heighten the Provocation, this Writer is undoubtedly one who reaps the greatest Fruits of Mr. *H—n*'s Labours.

BUT what we have hitherto been complaining of, is but Part of the accumulated Mischief of this pregnant Brain. It is not only Mr. *H—n* the Solicitor that has been injur'd in this gross Manner, but the Charity itself has also suffer'd; for when the Accounts came to be examined by the new Ch—w—ns, who are the Ch—w—ns defam'd in the Libel, they discover'd that these worthy Trustees and excellent Folks had, in the Repayment of the Subscription Money taken out of *M—s*'s Estate, above Seventy-four Pounds for Costs more than the Sum allow'd by the Decree.

THE Hardiness of this whole Proceeding is, perhaps, not easily to be match'd. The Reader, who is unacquainted with the Character of the *V—r*, will be surpriz'd to see him who stood in the Cause as a Defendant, put himself in the Place of the Relators, when the *Money* advanced in the Prosecution of the Suit, was to be returned; and yet more so, to see him assume to himself the Office of L—d C—r, in subjecting the Charity Estates to a Sum considerably larger than what his L—sh—p had decreed: But this is not all he has to be surpriz'd at in this eminent Character. If he wonders to see the Decree stretch'd beyond its Bounds in Favour of real Subscribers, how will he be astonish'd to find, that the Charities have been pillag'd, as well for the sake of a pretended Subscription, as for the real ones.

Upon

Upon the first Division of the Money amongst the Subscribers, a List of their Names, and the Half of each of their entire Subscriptions, was entered in the Account-Book of the Trust Estates. Now Mr. *F—r*, who received the Money of the Subscribers as the Cause went on, has mentioned, that the *V—r* pretended to have subscribed, in the whole, twenty Guineas more than he either had subscribed or paid; and added, that he had personally charged the *V—r* with this, and had argued with him against his taking more Money than he had really subscribed and paid. There were in the whole but five Subscriptions; to four of these the *V—r* subscrib'd ten Guineas to each: At the last Subscription (having acceded to a large Fortune) he sent Twenty Pounds to Mrs. *F—r*, who is now living; she gave her Receipt for it, Mr. *F—r* being then in *London*. This, with his former Subscriptions, could amount to no more than Sixty-two Pounds; but, when the Subscription-Money was to be repaid, the Half-Subscription, charged in the Account-Book to have been paid by the *V—r*, is Forty One Pounds Ten Shillings, which doubled, makes Eighty Three Pounds. Mr. *F—r* had taken a great deal of Pains to persuade him against doing this meditated Injury; but he had made the first Step in it, and he was resolved to go through with it. Private Admonitions were of no Weight with him: It was therefore expected by some who had been acquainted with the Secret, that Mr. *F—r* would have publicly charged him in the Vestry. But this Gentleman saw what Spirit he was of, and had been a Witness how basely Mr. *H—n*, the Solicitor, was treated by him, and imagin'd he should be the next to bear the Burthen of his implacable Malice, if he should thus far exasperate him; he therefore avoided to discover the Affair. He did not acquaint even Mr. *H—n* with this infamous Transaction; He knew, had he open'd it to him, the Business could no longer have been conceal'd.

Mr. *H—n*, long after, got the Knowledge of the Fact by perfect Accident. When his Son was in the Ch—w—ns Office, this Book of Accounts came into his Hands, and an attested Copy was then made of it. The Copy of the Trust Accounts was laid by, and might still have been covered with Dust, had it not been called forth by the late famous Libel. Mr. *H—n* the Father casually looking over the Repayments of Subscriptions Money, was surprized to see the *V—r*'s stand at so much, as he was confident he never could have have subscrib'd it. He suspected some foul Play, and he determined to know the Truth of it, and found it as we have her
resents

represented it. What a Man must this V—r be, who at the same Time he was pleading against Mr. H—n's having his just Fees, was himself taking in the two Repayments of his Subscription Money, eighty-three Pounds, which, as Mr. F—r insisted, who could not be mistaken, was 20 Guineas more than he ever subscribed; and it could not indeed be otherwise, as there were but five Subscriptions. The Nature of this Transaction might probably induce a Suspicion that the R—c—r, who repaid the Money, must be privy to the Guilt of it. We think it incumbent on us (for we would do Justice to every one) to declare our Belief of the contrary. The R—c—r was not at all concerned in the Corporation Suit: He therefore could not easily entertain the least Doubt of the V—r's Information, that his Subscriptions in the Whole amounted to eighty-three Pounds. There may possibly have been several Reasons for this unjustifiable Demand. The Principal we must believe to be a low Sordidness of Mind: A Second might be his Conscioufness of having occasion'd an Expence in the defending him much greater than his real Subscription, and an Intent that this might blind the Observation (tho' it exceeded even the Eighty Three Pounds): And finally, another Reason seems to be, his Pride that he could not bear to appear so much under Mrs. H—n in the Sum total which he had advanc'd in favour of the Cause.

Such is this extraordinary Man, who would be thought a zealous Opposer of Corruption and breach of Trust, a generous Assertor of the Public Rights; especially of those of the Poor. In Pursuance of this Design, he has endeavour'd, with all the Malice and Wantonness imaginable, to blacken the Characters of innocent, nay, whom he knows to be very deserving Persons, even to load them with his own dark Crimes, as will be made remarkably apparent in the Answers we shall be able to give to every one of his many infamous and groundless Accusations.

We shall conclude this Chapter with the Observation, that Power, especially in Matters of Trust, is seldom usurp'd without some View to private Interest: And this View never fails to occasion the Abuse of that Power. When it is discovered, that this has been the Motive and this the Event of it, nothing can be more just, or indeed, more laudable, than the using every honest Means to dispossess those who have so ill employed their Power, and to vest it in more ingenuous and less interested Hands.

C H A P. II.

Power of the Ch--w--ns by the Decree. The V---r's Management of the Trust Estates. The Ch--w--n Choice, which set aside his Dependents. The School-house Repairs.

WE have hitherto explained the Manner in which the Decree was obtained ; we shall now shew what the Power given by the Decree to the Churchwardens properly is, and in what Hands it has been lodged, from the Time of the obtaining that Decree, to that of the late Contests, which leads us to that Period of Time, when we enter on the Answer to the Book before us. The Trustees appointed by the Decree for managing Mr. M---s's Estate, are the M-y-r, the first senior Al---m---n, the V---r and the four Ch---w---ns ; one of these four is named by the V---r, and the other three are chosen by the Town. The first senior Al---m---n, and two of the three Ch---w---ns chosen by the Town, have also, according to the Decree, a considerable Power in the Management of B---n's Estate, in the Absence of the M-y-r or V---r, or if it should happen that they should be divided in Opinion, so that the V---r, if he has Power with the Ch---w---ns chosen by the Town, or can bring them to join in his Measures, has greatly the Majority of the Trustees, and can, in reality, do what he pleases in the Disposal of either of these two Estates ; the M-y-r and senior Al---m---n are two, the V---r, who affects to oppose them, and his Ch--w--n are in equal Number ; therefore the three Towns Ch---w---ns joined to the V---r, give him a great Majority.

The L--d Ch-----r, with great Judgment, appointed Things in this Manner, in order that there should be a proper Disposition of Power thro' the Town ; That the Magistrates should have some, the V---r some, and the Town also, by their Ch---w---ns, some : But we have found, that nothing less will satisfy the R---d, than the ingrossing the whole Power. He will have the chusing the T--ns-Ch---w---ns, and by that Means destroy the rational and just Equilibrium the L-- Ch-----r intended. To accomplish this favourite End, he has spent many hundred Pounds, and this he is ready enough to call Money laid out by him for the Good of the Town ; but nothing can be so clear, as that it is really

to abuse them, and support a Self-Interest against, nay, at the absolute Expence of theirs.

It will be necessary for us to mention, in this Place, that there are now upon B---n's Estate, many Tenants in the Parish of N—, who have Votes for M---rs of P——t, and several of them have Journeymen and Labourers engaged under them; a considerable Number of Tradesmen also are employed in building and repairing the several Houses, and in public Works dependant on this and other Town Estates; so that, where the Power of these Trusts is lodg'd over and above the proper ordinary Influence and Office of the Ch--w--ns, it gives a vast Interest in p——t-ry Elections. It is for this Reason, that the R---d sets down every Man as his Enemy, who does but propose a Lease, because the granting Leases makes the several Tenants for the Time independant.

The obtaining this Power has been the main View of the R---d Gentleman, who has the Matter of Elections greatly at Heart, and makes the Increase of his Power and Interest, on that Head, his principal Study. Upon a late Occasion the R---d would hardly have ventur'd to attempt an Opposition, if the Ch--w--n's Power had not then been in his Hands: He lost the Election indeed, as it was, but without that Power he must have lost it by a very great Majority. In Pursuance therefore of this ambitious Plan, he has a strong Aversion to any body's being chosen into the Office of Ch--w--n who could be independent, and above the Reach of his Influence; every thing of this Kind is a Step toward dividing a Power, which he is determined, if possible, to ingross to himself. When the Cause, on the Success of which all this Interest depended, was over, one of the Relators, Mr. P---r now living, very innocently mentioned to the R—d, that the Town had Thoughts of chusing Gentlemen into the Office of Ch--w--ns; he flew out into a Rage at the Mention of it; that Scheme could by no Means suit him; he must have for his Purpose such as were either his Tools and Creatures, or if not so, such as were in no wise capable of controuling him, or looking into his Purposes. He therefore named at that Time a near Relation, to be his own Ch--w--n, and has continued him as such ever since, which is now above thirteen Years; and this Person acts upon an avowed Principle, which is, that, as the V—r's Ch—w—n, he ought, in all Transactions, to be wholly directed by the V—r. The Gentleman whom he calls an excellent Ch--w--n, and who was and is

at this Time his Steward, was soon named for the Town; and he continued in Office eight Years, till Mr. *H--n* and his Companions were chose in the Year 1748.

FROM the obtaining the Decree till this Time no Opposition had been given to the Recommendation of *Ch--w--ns* by the *R--d*; it was thought a Matter not worthy a Contest, and they were chosen without Exception: The Decree had now fixed Rules for regulating the Charities, and the Trustees were, according to these Rules, to let the Estates, to account for, and order the Application of the Profits, at stated Times, in the open Church, before the Parishioners. The *R--d* had been one of the first Movers in recovering these Estates; and his private Fortune at this Time seemed to exempt him from every Temptation to use the Trusts to any private Purpose: The Gentry and better Sort did not intermeddle; nor did there usually any of the Parishioners appear at the Election of Parish Officers, except some few Workmen whom they were to employ.

Many Years had passed in this Manner; but there was no Appearance of Things being done agreeable to the Meaning of the Decree: No Iron Chests had been bought, nor any Chests at all made use of for depositing the Money, which the *R-c-r* constantly kept in his own Hands: No Increase of Salaries was all this Time made to the Schoolmasters and Singing-Boys; and a Number of very great Mismanagements evidently appeared; some of which will fall to be particularly explained in the succeeding Pages.

The Parish now thought it high Time to meet, to consider their own Interests; they did so in a great Body, in the King's Hall, and there determined to agree for themselves upon three Persons proper to be chosen the *T--wn's Ch--w--ns*. The Libeller represents Mr. *H--n*, the *Ch--w--n*, to be wonderfully solicitous on this Occasion, to get himself chosen into that Office; he pretends, that *he alledged many worthy Inhabitants would be ready to come into the Place, now grown to be a Trust of Importance to the Town; and that, for his own Part, if the Parish should be pleased to think well of him, he would shew them what mighty Feats he could do.* We shall have many Occasions to observe, that this Author, when he has but the least Point to carry, is never at a Loss for Matter; if there are no Facts that can make for him, he is never at a Stand for Invention, either to vilify or ridicule. The Truth in this Case is, that Mr. *H--n* thought of nothing less than to become a *Ch--w--n* himself; he did not seek the Office, but it sought him; he

did not solicit it, but was earnestly requested by the whole Body there assembled, to accept it. It was foreseen that the Execution of the Office would at first be attended with troublesome Opposition; and to encounter and overcome which, was at that Time compared, by the Inhabitants, to first breaking the Ice. In this View of the Office, it was natural indeed, that one of Mr. *H--n*'s Family should be thought of, as that Family had so eminently distinguished itself in the Recovery of these Trust Estates. Mr. *H--n* could have no Inducement to wish for the Place; and the unfair Usage, his Father had met with for his long and faithful Services, might well have excused him; the Advantage of the Publick, however, required it, and publick Spirit prevailed; he, on repeated Sollicitations, complied, though even then with very great Reluctance. Such is the true state of the Case in Regard to Mr. *H--n*'s becoming a Ch--w--n: And from the strict Adherence the V--r has paid to Truth in his Account of this, the Publick may make some guess at the Regard he pays to it in the rest of his Book, where his own Interest is in View.

Two other Gentlemen were nominated with Mr. *H--n* at the same Meeting; not *Mere Things*, as the Author of the Libel has decently called them, but Gentlemen of honest and worthy Character, Men that would scorn either to draw others, or to be drawn themselves to break the Trust, or to do a bad Action of any Kind. The Libeller *wishes he could drop one Word in Defence of these Men*; this would be a mighty Boon indeed! But they know what Sort of Actions will entitle them to his Commendation, and therefore have no Ambition to be praised by him.

Now, that we have mentioned thus far of the publick Intentions of the Parishioners, and their Manner of bringing them into Execution, we are to turn our Eyes toward the Measures taken by the R--d to oppose these three perfectly unexceptionable Candidates, set up by the Magistrates, Gentry, and principal Tradesmen of the Town. He opposed to them the Gentleman whom he dignifies with the Name of an excellent Ch--w--n, and two others; and, to support their Election, he did not spare Money; the Drums were hired to attend his Friends to the Church-Door; and the lowest Class, of whom his Voters consisted, were in general made drunk: At the Head of these the R--d entered the Church. The Pretence made against Mr. *H--n* to these intoxicated People was, that he intended to get out of the Trust Estates his Father's Law-Bill: That if these three

were

were chosen, the Town was ruined: It was given out also, in order to recommend the others, that, if the excellent Ch--w--n was re-elected, the Poor should have thirty Pounds presented to them; but beside this, as the most agreeable Thing of all, they had Hopes given them, if the R---d succeeded, that upon the next Election, he would certainly set up, on that Encouragement, a general Opposition to the great People, and by that Means cause a great deal of Money to be spent. Yet, notwithstanding all his Opposition, Mr. H---n and the other Gentlemen were chosen.

This was a killing Affair to the R-- d; this was touching him in the most sensible Part; nay, it was a Grievance of no common Kind to have it thought, that any Persons could be chosen against his Power and Authority; this stung home on the Remembrance; and to palliate a little, it is thus accounted for in the Libel, that truly *the Father of Mr. H--n, being St--d to the Court of a certain great Man, had strained his Interest upon this Occasion, and that this Interest was the Foundation of the Success.* A Land St---d, who lets the Estate, and receives the Rents, may indeed exert an Interest, but the St---d of a Court can have little or no Influence over the Tenants. But, in further Contradiction to this unjust Pretence, it happened, that Mr. H--n the Father was not upon the Spot to use any Interest at all; he was not at N--, but in *London*, when this Election of the C---w---ns happened; the Meeting, before spoken of, to propose the C--w--ns, was not held before *Easter-Eve*, and the Day of Election was *Easter-Tuesday*; so that Mr. H--n, the Father, knew nothing of it till a Day or two after the Election was over, when he returned into the Country. But much more than this may be said on the Occasion; there was not any Sollicitations about the Town, in Form, for this Election, by Mr. H--n the Son, or by any other; it was the Pleasure of the Parishioners; it was also perfectly well known throughout the Town, that none of the great People who had Interest there, concerned themselves at all in these parochial Disputes, and that every Parishioner was entirely at liberty to vote as he pleased. The Tenants of the great Man particularly hinted at, did not half of them so much as appear at this Election; and of those who did, some voted on one Side and some on the other.

ONE of the many political Schemes, which the judicious Reader will discover in this Libel, is to prevent, if possible

an Opposition from the great People to the R--d's Choice of the Town's Ch--w--ns ; this is his *Noli me tangere* ; in Case of such an Opposition, he knew his usurped Power in the Trusts must be wholly destroyed. It had been too much Presumption to have directly advised them against that Measure, nor could the Subject be properly introduced, without some pretended Occasion ; this was supplied from a feigned Piece of History, that in the Ch--w--n Election, Mr. H--n, the Father, had strained the Interest of the great Man to whose Court he is St--d. The Libeller truly, in his abundant Concern for that Interest, foresees, that it would be exceedingly weakened, harrassed away, and dissipated, if continually strained on Ch--w--n Occasions ; and he doubtless means to intimate, that the same Doctrine must hold equally good with Respect to other Persons of Rank who have Interest in the Place. But this *weakening, harrassing away, and dissipating*, is no better than pompous Nonsense ; it is only a positive Assertion, unassisted by the least offer of any one Reason to support it. Reason, indeed, sways a quite contrary Way ; for we humbly conceive, that a due Regard to those Elections would be so far from weakening, that it would vastly strengthen and add to the P--t--ry Interest. Our Author's Motive to giving this Advice is extremely evident ; but his own Example condemns it. Can it be wrong in Politics, that their Power should be employed to defeat the Interest of a Man who has made it his whole Study to supplant them in theirs ? The great Men may oppose him without any Expence in the Ch--w--n Choice. It is enough, if they order their Stewrds to unite with the Gentlemen and People of Property ; he can't then succeed but at a vast Expence, and this being annual, he will soon be weary of it.

THE Reflection here cast upon Mr. H--n's Family, as being of no Signification or Influence in the Town of N--, we could give a particular Answer to ; but as it is not criminal in them, nor indeed any way affects their moral Character, whether they are, or are not, of any Influence, we shall only observe in general, that it is an insolent Abuse of all the Gentlemen in the Town, and shews with what Contempt the Libeller's intolerable Pride leads him to look down upon every Body there. But the Violence of his Rage has not suffered him to see the Folly of his Reflection ; it is inconsistent with the Libel itself : Had the Family been of no Signification, he has stooped much too low, to bring out a M----r of P--m--nt to write so long and virulent an Inveective against them.

Another

ANOTHER of the Politic Schemes of this and the former Libel, is to deter all the Gentlemen of the Town from ever thinking to oppose the R--d in his Ch--w- n Elections ; for if Mr. H--n, and others, have been thus vilified and abused, all their Actions ridiculed, and false Glosses put upon them, who shall dare for the future to oppose themselves to such *Darts of Defamation*? But we believe the great Clearness of this Answer must wholly defeat that Scheme. Every Body will now see what a good and necessary Undertaking it was, to reduce his exorbitant and unnatural Power ; which to use the Words of the Libel, Page 75, he had *exercised with Injustice, Partiality, and Tyranny*.

MR. H--n, and the two other Gentlemen in the same Interest, were chosen by a considerable Majority : The Election is always by Custom on *Easter-Tuesday* ; and these new Ch---w---ns, by the like Custom, and according to constant Usage, took their Places in the Ch---w---ns Seat as such on the *Sunday* following, and attended the S--m--t : in this they were not opposed by the old Ch--w--ns. But the Visitation happening very late that Year, gave the V--r and the former Ch--w--ns an Opportunity after this to play a new Game. It is objected in Page 8 and 9, *that Mr. H--n the new Ch--w--n was mighty forward, and impatient to enter upon the Office, and execute his important Schemes, before he had qualified himself by taking the Oath* ; but the Libeller does not think it proper to say one Word of the V--r's Project, as unexpected, as it was unprecedented.

The Grammar School-house had been long neglected, and was at this Time greatly out of Repair ; this and the Song-School are of M--s's Foundation, and the Endowment of them was the principal Cause of his noble Benefaction, which is the greatest of all the Trust Estates given to the Parish : These Buildings therefore, of all other, ought to have been kept in the most compleat Repair ; but, instead of this, for many Years past the Trustees could not be prevailed upon to do even what was immediately necessary to preserve them. The Grammar School, with the House, is a large Building, the M--r and Al-m-n having long since added to the old House a new Part, with many Conveniencies. Notwithstanding the long Neglect that had been shewn this Establishment, presently after Mr. H--n's Election, the V--r was all on a sudden in the greatest Hurry to do something ; and in Concurrence with the old Ch-w--ns, ordered this House to be repaired *immediately*. The C--w--ns were now going out of

their Office, and having before applied the whole Cash of their Year, they had nothing left to defray the Expence of these Repairs : A strange Turn indeed at such a Time in Favour of the Free School ! But the Scheme, besides the Interest made by employing Workmen, was, to render the new Comers by this sudden Expence incapable of increasing the Salaries, buying Chests, employing Workmen, or doing any Thing for the Good of the Town, if they discharged these Bills ; and if they did not, then he thought it would be easy to raise an undeserved Clamour against them for rejecting the Bills of honest Tradesmen, or delaying the Payment. The new elected C--w--ns did all in their Power to obstruct the Design of heaping a large Debt upon them ; the Workmen were ordered not to meddle, and were told if they did, they must expect Payment from those who gave the Order, for that the new Trustees, as they did not set them to work, neither would, nor were bound to pay them : The Workmen, however, were resolute, notwithstanding all this, to begin and go on with the Repairs. Every good and prudent Officer, before he engages in any Work, should know he has Cash in Hand, or be sure that he shall have Cash, during the Course of his Office, to pay for it ; but as the Public Good was not intended, no Regard was paid to this necessary Consideration in the setting about these Repairs. The Work and Materials, in new tiling and glazing, amounted to near sixty Pounds : The Workmen have since acknowledged they had received Orders also to new-seat the School ; but the Oath of Office being administered, put a stop to all further Mismanagement of this Kind.

It was in Consequence of this arbitrary Proceeding of the V--r, that the new C--w--ns did affirm a legal Right to exercise the Office immediately after the Election, and before the Oath, especially in Regard to the Trust Estates, the Management whereof is foreign to the proper Office of a C--w--n, and is not any Part of it, except as made so by the particular Order of the Decree, in Favour of a due Regulation of these Estates. Not only the Custom of the Parish seemed to warrant the Opinion, that they might do this, but Cases in the Books are not wanting to assert it, particularly 3 *Keb.* 418. 1 *Ven.* 267. 1 *Lilly*, Abr. 267. But we do believe, and the At---G--l's Opinion, which was afterwards taken is the same, that the Office of the old C--w--ns continues till the new are sworn, as well in Regard to the Trust Estates, as to the proper Business of their Office. This, however, could not authorize the old C--

w--ns to leave a Debt upon the Estate, and upon their Successors, as will be shewn hereafter.

C H A P. III.

The History of the Ev--rt--n Affairs. The Trust Meetings occasionally explain'd; and Charges on Mr. H---n the Ch--w--n, which relate the P--sb--Cl---k, fully answered.

IT is not always to People that have merited Applause that we find it paid; even private Benefits are often returned with Ingratitude. But in publick ones, the Malice of some disappointed Invader of the common Rights, will frequently find a Way to misrepresent the whole Transaction, and censure what the Author of the Calumny knows he ought to praise.

It was exactly thus, in regard to the Gentleman who is made the principal Subject of this Libeller's Rage; who, in return for the good Offices he did to the Charity Estates, as well as to the Tenants who rented them, during his exercising the Office of Ch--w--n, has seen his Character blacken'd in the most unjust and disingenuous Manner; and his Efforts for the general Benefit construed into Crimes, by the Man who wish'd to build his own private Interest on the Ruins of that of the Publick.

This will appear in the most obvious Manner in the Course of the *Ev--rt--n* Affairs, which we shall, for that Reason, beg the Reader's Permission to treat in the most particular Manner.

It was ordered by the Decree, *that when any Leases should expire, or any Part of the Estate become untenanted, that the same should be let, not, as usually before, at a small Rent and large Fine; but, at the full improv'd Value without any Fines.* And, that the Estates might be really let at their full Value, it was further ordered, *that the T---n Cl---k should cause a publick, and at least ten Days Notice, to be given by the P--sb--Cl--k on a Sunday, in the Church, immediately after Divine Evening Service, of the Time and Place of letting such Estates; which should be in the Body of the Church, between the Hours of twelve and two of the Clock on the Day appointed, and to the Person that would give the most Rent for the same: Provided* (as in this Case, any Person, however insufficient,

might bid the most Rent) *such Person should be esteemed by the M-y-r, three senior Al-m--n, the V--r and four Ch--w--ns, or the major Part, capable of paying or giving good Security to pay the Rent.*

Soon after the obtaining this Decree, which was in *January* 1738, some considerable Farms at *Ev--rt--n* were let in the Church, according to the Intent and Regulations of it, to the best Bidder: But these being upon the full improved Value, the Land-Tax was to be allowed. After these, other Leases expired at *Ev--rt--n*, and the Lands which they concerned were also let in the same Manner. In fine, all the Lands at *Ev--rt--n*, which had been let, in Pursuance of the Decree, at the improved Value, were let with Condition of the Land-Tax to be allowed; and, in Fact, it had been from that Time constantly and duly accounted for to all these Tenants.

At length, Mr. *G--l--by's* Lease, which was of the largest Estate, expired: this happened at Lady-Day 1748. Mr. *G--l--by* had let the Farms and Lands amongst several Undertenants, who were willing to continue each in his several Possession. Two other Leases were then also expired, one a Year, and the other two Years before Mr. *G--l--by's*: These had not been let in Pursuance of the Decree, but the letting them had probably been deferr'd, in order to their being let with the Lands in Mr. *G--l--by's* Lease. A large Part, therefore, of Mr. *M---*'s Estate, was to be let at the same Time: This Incident afforded a favourable Opportunity for the laying the Farms contiguous. Some small Exchanges and Alterations were also agreed to, upon fair Valuations, by the Tenants who had heretofore taken their Farms as the best Bidders. These Alterations (it seems) were not thought of such Consequence, as to cause these Tenants once more to repair to *N---*, to bid again for their Farms: If the Trustees had, indeed, insisted upon that Ceremony, perhaps, neither would the Tenants have concurred in the Alterations, nor the Conveniencies have been secured at the Auction.

In planning the Farms, the making the Terrier, and also in the necessary Valuations to be made previous to the letting them, which was in *January* 1747, the Trustees principally employed a Man of the Village, their Under-Steward, who was assisted by one or two others of the same Town. This Person was sed with the Expectation of a large Salary, to engage his Fidelity to the Estates; and, indeed, by his faithful Discharge of his Duty, he incurred the ill Will of

some of the Tenants. A full Valuation was made of these several Farms, according to former Valuations, upon the Supposition that the Land-Tax was to be allowed. The Tenants could not, nor did they apprehend any other; and the *Houses* also were valued in all the Agreements, as well great as small.

In *January* 1747, (the Valuation being completed) the Tenants, not of the whole Estate of Mr. *M—s* at *Ev—rt—n*, (as it should seem by the Libel), but those of the three expired Leases only came over to *N—*, to bid for their several Farms, according to the Valuations. But it would be proper to enquire here, why was so late a Season as *January* appointed for the letting of these *Ev—rt—n* Farms, which were to be absolutely taken from the Lady-Day following? The Trustees, who foresaw the Time of Expiration of Mr. *G—l—y's* Lease, ought to have made the necessary Valuations a twelvemonth before: In this Case, the Tenants, if any of them should have disliked the Terms, might have had ample Time to provide for themselves elsewhere; and the Trustees also, to procure others in their Place. But the Tenants were drawn on to rely upon a suppos'd Continuance, at a fair and reasonable Rent to be agreed upon, till it was become too late for them to be their own Chusers. When the Valuations were finished, the Tenants declar'd themselves willing to take their Farms accordingly; but they must repair to *N—*, and comply with the Forms of the Decree, by passing through the Ceremony of Bidding.

The Scene now opens; and how great was their Surprise, when they were told in the Church, that they must pay the Land-Tax, which was then Four Shillings in the Pound, besides their proposed Agreement! Their Leases were expired, and they knew they must turn out at Lady-Day, if they did not comply with this. It is said in the Pamphlet, *That soon after the much-defamed Ch—w—n came into Office, which was at Easter 1748, the Inhabitants were surprized with Complaints from the Tenants at Ev—rt—n*; and it is insinuated, *that these Complaints were excited or encouraged by him*. But this is by no Means a fair Representation of the Case; the Tenants made their Complaints from the very Beginning. At the Time of taking their Farms in the Church, several of them cried out against the Hardship and Injustice of what was imposed so unexpectedly upon them. But Lady-Day was at Hand, and they were under the Necessity, therefore, either of submitting, or of turning themselves

selves out of their Stations. On this Consideration only, and not from any Opinion that it was right, or any willing Acquiescing in the Proposal, they agreed, or rather they were constrained to agree, to hold their Farms with the Land-Tax, and this for a Term of three Years.

But, what still exceeded even the oppressive Tyranny of this Transaction, was, that those concerned in it having gained their Point over these Tenants, they were ordered to inform their Neighbours at home, who had taken their Farms several Years before, in the Church, as best Bidders, and to whom the Land-Tax had always been allowed; that they likewise, for the future, must pay the Land-Tax; for the Trustees (they were told) would not make Fish of one and Flesh of another. A noble Reason for Oppression and Injustice! The most favourable Construction that can be put upon this Conduct towards the poor Tenants, and which Charity would incline us to hope might be the Case, is, that there was a Jealousy, that the Persons employed in the Valuations, might under-rate the Farms so far as to leave Room to make an Addition of a Sum equal to the Land-Tax: But at the very best, it was a Piece of low Craft and Cunning. After the Return of these Tenants to *Ev—rt—n*, nothing was heard there but Complaints of this unexpected and unjustifiable Usage; the Rumour spread itself into all the Neighbourhood there, and the Credit of *N—*, and the Trustees, sunk apace.

After the defamed *Ch—w—n* and his Collegues came into Office, the Tenants, as it was natural, applied to them and the other Trustees for Relief. The Complaint was considered at a general Meeting of the Trustees; and the *V—r* did not then object to granting the Relief they ask'd; but he proposed an Enquiry should be made into the Nature of the Farms, whether they really were too dear with the Land-Tax or not. This was readily complied with by all present, and the new *R—c—r* Mr. *C—gh*, a Gentleman of Worth and Honour, and one who is universally respected at *N—*, and himself skilful in the Value of Land through his long Experience in Husbandry, was sent to *Ev—rt—n* to view the Farms. He took with him a Person of Judgment in that Part of the Country, and also the very same Men whom his immediate Predecessor had employed to make the former Valuation. In Consequence of this Enquiry, it appeared to these Gentlemen, and it was the unanimous Opinion of all, that the Farms were let upon a full Rent, without the Tax.

One would have imagined after this, that all Contest would

would have been at an End, and that no Body would dispute, whether the Tenants should have the Relief or not, which they so justly demanded. But the most worthy R—d, ever intent upon *what he has esteemed* his private Interest, had set himself to work after the Time of that Meeting, to find out a Handle for Objection, which he was resolved to lay hold on. He took great Pains to represent a Person who was a real Friend of the Town, as acting contrary to its Interest, and exciting, or at least encouraging, the *Ev—r-t---n* Complaints. He also hoped, that opposing the Abatement, with the Assistance of a few false Colourings, might be a Means of acquiring Popularity ; and that he should appear, as he would be thought, the Vindicator of the publick Rights.

HAVING discovered the Cause and Foundation of this Complaint, we shall proceed to examine the Conduct of those Trustees, who refus'd to give Way to Oppression, and who would not prosecute an unjustifiable Scheme begun by their Predecessors ; but being generously touched with the Hardships of the poor Tenants, were resolved, if possible, to relieve and do them Justice.

THE Libeller sets out with, what he calls, an Account of what passed at a Meeting of the Trustees, when Mr. F—s and another of the Tenants attended. He first says, *That Mr. F—s moved for the Abatement of the Tax, and that he was warmly supported by this Ch--w--n, who declared himself very ready, if others were willing, to agree to it.* This is very true ; nor would any Body wish to deny it : He thought he had Equity and Reason to warrant his Opinion, which was, to give the Re--v--r Orders to allow the Land-Tax, not only to the Tenants who had been always us'd to have it allow'd, but even to those who had taken in *January 1747*, on the Expiration of Mr. G--l--by's and the other two Leases ; and had at that Time been, in a Manner, constrained to submit to the unexpected Hardship of agreeing without that Allowance. The Tenants were, and had, for many Years past, been the Possessors ; several of these had built and made other great Improvements upon their Farms, which had been again taken by them, as the best Bidders at the Auctions in the Church. Nothing can be more evident, than that the sole Motive of the Ch--w--n in this Case, was a Love of Justice, and a Sense of the hard Treatment the Tenants, who after the Improvements they had made in the Estates might very justly be esteemed Benefactors to the publick Charities, had suffered ; but there is nothing that a malicious Cunning cannot misrepresent.

present. The best Actions have always been found most liable to this foul Play ; and we have an Instance of what the Power of Malice is in misrepresenting, in what the libellous Author has pointed out as the Reason, why the Ch--w -n undertook the Cause of the Tenants at *Ev--rt--n*; in P. 15. he tells the World it was with a fordid View of Profit to his Brother the T--n-C--k, whose Office it was to prepare the Leases which afterwards were granted. But the Motion he now made, and which is charged upon him, demonstrates he could not entertain any such View ; since an Order from the Trustees to abate the Tax, which was what he requested, would have put an End to the whole Business without further Ceremony ; for in that Case not a Lease could have been granted.

The next Thing this candid Author acquaints us with, is, *That Mr- F--fs was ask'd by an opposing Trustee, whether he would be willing to have his Farm put up again to be bid for ?* It is likewise very true that he refused it ; but this, not because he had got a cheap Bargain, for the contrary of that will appear presently ; but he was desirous to hold the Farm he had taken, if he could do it on any tolerable Terms ; and he yet hoped some other Expedient might be thought of to relieve him. It appeared, indeed, in the Event, that he rather chose to quit the Farm, than to continue it with the Addition of the Land-Tax.

The other Tenant, who came with Mr. F--fs, had taken his Farm as the best Bidder, about seven Years before, to hold it from Year to Year, and was one of those to whom the Land-Tax had been always allowed ; but he found it was now to be imposed upon himself and the others, by a subsequent Act ; and that, contrary to the publick Contracts made in the Church, and whether they were willing or not. But so far was this Tenant from engaging in any new Agreement at this Time, as it is pretended in the Libel, that he left the Room highly dissatisfied, with this remarkable and stinging Reflection, *No more Improvements at Ev--rt--n*, he having himself improved some Acres by Inclosure. And, indeed, such was the Indignation of both him and the other, that, notwithstanding the Night was advanced, and at the Michaelmas Season, they immediately took Horse, and left the Town in which they had been so hardly treated.

WE come now to the Proposal which was made by the same opposing Trustee, who very much disliked the *Private Meetings*, as he affected to call them, of the Trustees. The Place of assembling was the Council-Chamber of the Corporation ;

Corporation ; this was a warm and convenient Room, and was chose, not for the sake of Secrecy, as has been shamefully, foolishly, and groundlessly pretended, but the more strongly to invite all the Members of that Body, who are thirteen, to attend at the Meetings ; tho' in most Cases, two only of the Number are Trustees, that is, the M--y-r and first senior Al--m-n, to whom are sometimes added in the Trust the two next senior Al--m-n. Had Designs been carrying on at these Meetings for private Advantage to any Person, or against the Good of the Parish ; had it been resolved to take dishonourable Resolutions, as it is pretended, the Meetings would surely have been conducted with more Privacy. It was a constant Custom to give Notice by the Corporation Officers, of all Meetings of the Trustees concerning the Charity-Estates, as well to the Al--m-n, as to all the Trustees ; and many of the Al--m-n frequently attend at those Meetings.

It is urged also, with a pretended Fairness, that *private Meetings were held, when some of the Trustees themselves had no Notice at all of such Meetings.* Even this we believe may be literally true ; and yet nothing is to be charged to us on that Account. It is well known the V--r is frequently, for several Months together, in London, or at other Places at a great Distance from the Parish ; and a Person of his imaginary Dignity and Importance may probably think it a Grievance, that any Corporation or Trust-Meeting should be assembled during his Absence : But we cannot be of Opinion, that all publick Business is to wait on his private Occasions or Amusements ; or that a Set of able Men, who have nothing but the Good of the Trust at Heart, may not meet for that Good, tho' it should happen that his sacred Person be out of the Way. He was always himself summoned when at N—. As to the V--r's Ch--w--n, he having peremptorily refused to attend, unless the V--r was present, it became impertinent after that, to give him Notice of Meetings when the V--r was from home. But the very Circumstance of the Al--m-n's being invited plainly enough shews, that the Trustees could be conscious of no Injustice, nor of any sinister Steps taken or intended to be taken at their Meetings. The Al--m-n are all of them in the Road to the M-y-r-ly, and to Seniority, and, therefore, are in the Way to become Trustees, according to the Decree. What could better then instruct and qualify such Gentlemen for the expected Trust, than to know the present Business, and the Subjects of Disputes which might disturb it in their Time. Guilt, if there had been

been any, must have been seen thro' and exposed by some of these Observers, and themselves would have acquired Experience and Caution.

But the Arguments of that opposing and violent Trustee were seldom thought to be at all conclusive in these calm debates ; he therefore did propose, as it is charged in the Libel, that the Meetings about the Charity Estates might be held for the future in the Church, and that public Notice might be given for all the Parishioners to attend at them : but why was this to be in the Church ? He was informed that the L--d Ch--r has in certain Cafes ordered the Meetings to be in the Church, as when the public Accounts are to be passed and the Balance stated, the Application thereof to be ordered, and the Estates to be let. These Particulars were of the first Importance, and at the the same time, as they are generally ready prepared, they were soon dispatched. But where a Trust is reposed in many, and every one is willing to take his Share of the Burden, a Frequency of meeting becomes absolutely necessary. It would be extremely hard, he was told, to force the Trustees to assemble upon every Occasion, in a cold and damp Place, to consult for the Good of the Estate and Farms ; it was objected also, that the Meetings were sometimes of very long Continuance : nay, one or two of the more infirm Trustees, Persons of Character, declared the just Apprehensions they were under of hazarding their Health by staying in so cold a Place. But how justly may the reader be surprized, when he is informed, that though this favourite Scheme of the Trustee was again and again repeated and urged by him upon all Occasions, yet neither in any one Year preceding nor subsequent to that of 1748, was there ever any public Meeting of the Trustees, whether in the Church or elsewhere, except what are particularly ordered by the L--d Ch--r, known to be held, in order to have the Assistance or advice of the Parish. And yet no Man can doubt the Power and Influence of that Trustee during those Years over his own Collegues in the trust.

The opposing Trustee had centered all his Hopes in tumultuous Meetings of the Parish : He flattered himself that noisy Clamour must drown the Voice of Reason ; and he thought to captivate the lower Class of People, unacquainted with these Subjects of Dispute. The Trustees, it is true, did not choose to humour him, for the Reasons which we have now alledged ; but, if he had been indulged in his Request, he would have found his hopes vain and ill-grounded.

As

As soon as the public Meetings, ordered by the Decree, were held, opportunities were then taken of explaining the nature and intent of the *Ev—rt—n* Transactions; and, notwithstanding all the arts of the opposing Party, the Parishioners appeared (as may be observed hereafter) to be fully convinced of the Necessity and Justice of them. His speeches to the Body of Parishioners in the Church were of no more weight with them, than they had been before with the Trustees assembled in the Chamber.

BUT to go on with the *Ev—rt—n* relation. The allowance of the land-tax by the R—r being disapproved of by one of the Trustees, from his conceiving it irregular, and inconsistent with the Decree, though he meant nothing less than to oppose the abatement at all events, the two Tenants returned home with the sentiments above related. The reception these two had met with exasperated the others, who had all promised themselves relief, from the favourable Opinion which appeared to be given upon the second view of the Estates, and which was to be reported at this Meeting. In short, tired out with expectations of justice from the Trustees, they formed resolutions of doing it to themselves; the Money was in their own hands: and the older Tenants, especially, threatened to detain it. It became necessary to disentangle these affairs, as well as to be just in our dealings with the Tenants; and this produced, as the last expedient, the dissolution of the contract of *January 1747*, than which nothing could more plainly demonstrate the truth of the original complaint. This accident occasioned the Farms to be once more set up at public Auction: the Tenants rather than submit to the grievance of the Tax, were willing to run the hazard of being out-bid. But they had signified beforehand, that, if they should again happen to be the best bidders, they were now desirous upon this occasion to be established, on the certain ground of a lease-hold Term, that they might not hereafter be subject to the arbitrary will of any person; and this, being for the mutual benefit of the Estate and tenants, was approved of by the Trustees. It is likewise apparent from the deed of Ordinances, p. 11. in the book of Donations, that the donor himself approved of the letting his Estates on Lease; the regulations he has there established for that purpose fully shew it. The older Tenants also, who had taken Farms since the Decree as best Bidders, and to whom the Tax had been hitherto constantly allowed, having been threatened with the same regulations that had distressed the others, were willing to surrender up their Interests

terests, and again expose their Possessions to public Action. Experience had now sufficiently shewn to both Parties, what arbitrary and illegal Attempts might be made, if the Contract was not for a fixed Term, and in Writing under Hand and Seal. There was no Pretence indeed to demand the Tax of these tenants, but they were resolved to be at Peace and upon a certainty, either with or without the *N— Farms*.

Accordingly the Trustees accepted of a Surrender from the *Ev--rt--n* Tenants, who had taken either at any former time since the Decree, or in the *January* preceeding; and these Tenants promised, by a written Agreement, each to bid again the same Rent for his Farm which he then paid, except the Sum of the Tax, and to take the same for a Term of Years not less than eleven, nor exceeding twenty-one, under the usual and proper Covenants in Leases. This was a prudent and necessary Care, that the Tenants at *Ev--rt--n* should not any of them desert the Charity Estates, when the Trustees, to remove the Oppression they complained of, had dissolved the former Contracts.

THE extraordinary Gentleman, whom we have already had Occasion to speak of so often, and whose turbulent Spirit had been the first Ocasion of all these Dissatisfactions, and who had been long flattering himself with the Hopes of acquiring a Popularity, and of disgracing others, did not now stand in need of any new Provocation; the Jealousy of Leases, which he has a great Aversion to, set him all on fire. He laboured under dreadful Apprehensions, that the Precedent might be followed at *N—*. There are in that Town many Tenants of the Estate given by Mr. *B—n*, whose united Interest is considerable; they are Tenants at will, and subject to be at any time put out of their Houses, and Experience has shewn them to be greatly influenced by this Dependence. A State of constant Fear and Uncertainty is extremely wretched. It is therefore probable enough, that the *Ev--rt--n* Example might have encouraged all these People to have given, at one and the same time, a half Year's Notice or more of quitting their Houses: In this case their Possessions might, in a few Days after the Notice, be all put up again at once, to be taken from the time for which the Notice was given, and for a Term of twenty one Years, with the proper leasehold Covenants. They were likely in such case each to have again his own Possession; but if any few of them should be disappointed, there was ample time to provide for themselves elsewhere.

Things

THINGS being thus prepared for the *Ev—rt—n* biddings, the *T—n—cl—k*, in the presence of two of the *Ch—w—ns*, delivered to the *P—sh—cl—k* by order of the Trustees, on *Sunday December 25*, before the Evening Service began, a Notice for letting the Farms at *Ev—rt—n*, which he was to publish that Afternoon immediately after the Evening Service was ended. The *Cl—k* received the Notice, but he did not publish it; after this, he was asked by those two *Ch—w—ns*, why he neglected to read the Notice, and he made answer that the *V—r* sent from his House in the time of Evening Service to forbid him, and that he would stand by him for his Refusal; though by the Decree, he knew, it was his Duty to publish the Notice. Some few Days after, a Meeting of the Trustees was held in the Council-chamber, at which all of them, except the *V—r* and his *Ch—w—n*, attended; and there were also many of the *Al—m—n* present. It was at this Meeting unanimously ordered, that the *T—n—cl—k* should cause the Notice to be given on the next *Sunday* by the *P—sh—cl—k*, (as it is directed by the Decree), but in case of his default again, that it should then be given by the Beadle; and this latter did accordingly give the requisite public Notice. The Beadle (whom the Libeller for the sake of ridicule calls by the Name of *Bellman*) is one of the Church Officers, and is also the Common cryer: He was therefore the most proper Person to be employed upon the *Cl—k*'s refusal. This poor Man, it seems, was sent for on the same *Sunday* Evening by the *V—r*, from whom he came in a most trembling Condition; and he acknowledged, that he had signed a Paper about the Notice he had given, which the *V—r* had himself drawn up. As we believe this Method of getting Peoples Hands to Papers has been much practised by this careful Gentleman for many reasons, we have mentioned this singular Instance of it on the present Occasion.

THE *Ch—w—n* is charged in his Libel with having *promised the P—sh—cl—k an Augmentation of his Salary, if he would publish the Contents of any Papers he should put into his Hands*; but this is a very false, and will appear to be an utterly groundless Assertion. That *Ch—w—n* was too faithful and too frugal a dispenser of the public Money to lavish it away upon any Occasion. He never promised him any Augmentation, though he confesses he was willing to pay him the *full Salary* allowed by the Parish. The *P—sh—cl—k* complained to the newly-chosen *Ch—w—ns*, that the Salary was eight Pounds a Year, and was so charged to the Parish in the *Ch—w—n* Accounts; notwithstanding which, he could never

D

received

receive more than six Pounds. Being asked how such a thing could be, he did acknowledge, that truly he had accepted the place, on a condition (yet, if it should not too much straiten him) to allow forty shillings a year out of the Salary to an Inhabitant of the Town, for whom a certain R—d Gentleman said he had a very great Regard; (the Reader is to know that this Inhabitant is a Voter) but continues the poor Cl—k, “ It really pinches me very hard, “ and I don’t see why I should be deprived of 40 s. a Year. “ If the Gentleman has any particular Affection for the “ Man, he is more able than me to give him that Money.” The P—sh Cl—k was told the Contract was in itself illegal, and of no Force; and the much defamed Ch—w—n is not ashamed to own that he did immediately offer him his full Dues; yet so thoroughly afraid was the poor Fellow of the R—d’s well known Resentment, that tho’ the Relief he wanted was offered upon his own Complaint, he durst not then accept it; he desired he might have a little Time to consider what he should do, but never more applied to the newly-chosen Ch—w—ns for his Money, receiving it as usual from the V—r’s Ch—w—n. The Relief under so unfair a Grievance was freely offered him as a Matter of Justice; and that, without any annexed Condition whatsoever; nor would any Consequences have been expected from it, had he accepted it. Was there ever any Thing more cruel than thus to pinch these poor Officers of the Church of their due Salaries, to support ambitious Views, and for the Sake of having two Votes instead of one? How base is it to give such a wicked Turn to the just Offer of paying the poor Man his Dues, as to call it an Augmentation of his Salary, upon Condition that he would publish the Notices? How dangerous is it to oppose such a Man as this, even in his worst Schemes? It is surely a great Abuse of the Parish to defraud their Officers of a Part of the Salaries, which they think proper to allow.

The other Charge upon this Ch—w—n, which relates to the P—sh Cl—k, is, that on his finding Promises would not prevail with him, he afterwards threatened *to remove him from his Place, (which, it is said, he ignorantly imagined he had Power to do)*, but this is as false and groundless as the former; it is so contrary to Truth indeed, that the P—sh Cl—k apprehending he was liable to be put out by the R—d, as not having a Licence, though he had served the Office many Years, this Ch—w—n assured him he could not be removed; and that, if any one should attempt to do it for his

observing

observing the Directions of the Decree, he would defend him at his own Expence. And we are assured, that if the P--sh Cl--k dares at this Time to do the Ch--w--n Justice, he must acknowledge, he was treated by him at all Times in this, and in all other Respects, in a very friendly, good-natured and disinterested Manner.

As to the withholding a Bounty from the poor Cl--k, which this Ch--w--n continued to the other Parish or Church Officers, and yet charging it in the Account as given, we shall hereafter speak of that in the Article of Visitation Dinners; and only observe here, that this Story, like all the rest, appears, when stated in a just Light, superlatively base and wicked.

C H A P. IV.

The History of the Ev---rt---n Affairs continued.

WE are now come to *the never to be forgotten Day* in January, 1748, when the Farms and smaller Portions of the Charity Estates were again put up to public Auction. The Number at this Time put up was fifteen; seven of them had been taken after the Decree, and before the Month of January, 1747; and for these the Land-Tax had always been allowed: and the remaining eight had been taken in the Manner before related, in January 1747. Each Tenant appeared in the Church to bid the same Rent which he then paid for his several Part, the Land-Tax being to be allowed; and though much has been affirmed of the great Cheapness of these Bargains, yet twelve of the fifteen retook their Farms without Opposition at that Rent, no Person bidding against them. Of the remaining three, viz Mr. F--s's, Mr. R--s's, and J--D--w's, the two former were taken by one and the same Person; and this the very Person, who but a Fortnight before was at *Ev--rt--n*, and threatened the Tenants of January 1747, particularly Mr. F--s, with a Chancery Suit to be commenced against them by the V--r, if they did not hold on for two Years longer, and pay the Land-Tax.

MR. F--s is the V--r of *Ev--rt--n*, a Gentleman of undeniable Character, universally esteemed, and very happy in his Fortune; but the best of Men are most liable to be abused by Calumny and Libels. This worthy Person is

introduced upon the Stage as acting the Part of a very weak, a mean spirited and an unjust Man ; he appears as one of the principal Persons in a supposed scandalous Confederacy of the Tenants with the Trustees against the Charity Estate, to abate his Rent under the Pretence of a forced and very hard Bargain, and it is there averred that this Bargain was in Fact extremely cheap.

Such is this Libeller's Way of representing Facts where he wants to serve a Purpose ; but Truth and Impartiality will set them in a very different Light. This Gentleman reserving to himself the House and a Close or two for Family Use, had, excepting that, let off his whole Farm amongst Under-tenants, at the Rent the Particulars were valued at in the Terrier-book ; but one of them not adding his Proportion of Land-Tax to the Rent, Mr. F--s was actually out of Pocket. And yet it is well understood in Country Business, that a Bye-take, or a small Parcel of Ground added to a Farm, is of more Value to the Farmer, and he can afford to pay a larger Rent than in Proportion for his whole Farm. Mr. F--s was moreover at the whole Expence of Repairs, beside the Hazards of losing Rent ; all which sufficiently evince the Dearness of the Farm. There is no doubt but he was sensible enough that the Bargain was a disadvantageous one ; but he was induced to take it on Account of the House, of which he then was and had been for many Years in Possession, being more commodious than that of the V--r--ge : this latter wanted the Room and Conveniencies, which the necessary Occasions of his Family required, and which a Year or two after, he being now bid out of his Farm, cost him at the V--r--ge, tho' advanced in Years, a very considerable Sum. It is very evident from this what was Mr. F--s's real Situation, and what were his Motives for acting. His Farm was forty-one Pounds a Year, besides the Tax ; and on the putting it up at this Time, he again bid forty-one Pounds ; but an Inhabitant of N--- bidding forty-two Pounds was the best Bidder, for neither Mr. F--s nor any other offered to give more.

When the Farm had thus fallen upon the last Bidder, the Trustees, in Discharge of their Trust and Consciences, required him to find good Security that he should pay the Rent ; and to do this before the Meeting broke up. The Proviso in the Decree is, that " The Person who will give
" the most Rent shall be esteemed by the Trustees, or the
" major Part present, to be capable of paying or giving
" good Security to pay the Rent." But after what Man-

ner

ner must this Power be exerted, when the Trustees conceive it necessary to require Security? A Person insufficient being the best Bidder, ought at that Time to give, or to shew that he is able to give Security, and not to leave the Thing at Hazard to be subject to Accidents afterwards; otherwise the next best Bidder may be at any Time unjustly set aside, and the Estate become untenanted.

In the Case of Mr. F--s's Farm, the N-- Inhabitant returned to the Church with a Note, even from the very opposing Trustee, promising his own Security for the Rent of any Farms, which that Inhabitant might take. How inconsistent with all his former Conduct, was the offering his own Security on this Occasion? The Libeller is very curious in his Remarks upon the Reception this Note met with from the Trustees; He observes that they *perused it in a sullen Manner, as if it were a Kind of mortifying Disappointment to them, that they all sat silent over it for a Time, neither approving nor disapproving it, and at last it was faintly owned to be unexceptionable.* The Trustees had Reasons for perusing the Note with some Care. It was really a Concern to them, that the Parish should lose such an excellent Tenant as Mr. F--s; neither was it certain that Security would be given, for the Note itself was not sufficient, yet the Trustees suffered it to pass. But when the Leases and Bond of Security were prepared and ready to be executed, the Behaviour of this unexceptionable Man fully justified the Reception the Trustees had given his Note: He boggled at giving the Security, tho' he had promised so to do, in a solemn Manner, by a Writing under his own Hand, sent to a numerous Assembly of the Parish. The Trustees had a Meeting upon this; and resolved, that if he did not sign within a limited Time, the former Tenants should be continued. He could say no more for his Refusal, than that he was going out of Town for a Month, and thought it hard that his Word could not be taken: this was received as a poor evasive Excuse for not executing the Bond, which might have been done in one or two Minutes; the plain Sense of it was, "Execute the Leases now, and get the Bond afterwards as you can." This Stratagem failing, he was at length prevailed upon, we believe, by the strong Remonstrances of the new Tenant, and the Importunity of his Friends, to be as good as his Word. This Difficulty, which the Trustees surmounted, plainly shews, that in the Opinion of him who gave the Security, they acted very prudently for the Parish in first requiring it.

Mr. *F--s* being now, in the Middle of *January*, bid out of his House, and a Tenant being in Possession of the *V--r-ge*, he desired to continue on his Farm one Year longer, that his Tenant might have Time to remove, and himself to make the necessary Alterations and Additions; and he gave this Reason for his Request, which the Author, after his usual Manner of perverting Things, would ascribe to the pretended Cheapness. The Opposition thrown in the Way of all Endeavours to relieve the Tenants, occasioned the Day of Bidding to be so long deferred.

The Author finishes his Account of Mr. *F--s*'s Farm, in saying that more than forty-two Pounds a Year, (abating the Land-Tax), has since his quitting it been offered by another. He does not say how much more, nor do we know of any such Offers: But we may safely say, it is easy for the Author of this *Invective* to affirm any Thing.

AFTER having thus gone thro' in the most impartial Manner one Transaction, so wilfully and grossly misrepresented by this Writer, we are naturally led to the Affair of Mr. *R--s*'s Farm. whose Family had been in Possession of it Time out of Mind. This Person is in extremely good Circumstances, and he had during his own Possession expended a very considerable Sum of Money upon this very Farm, to make it useful and convenient. To instance only in the Building Improvements; he has erected at his own intire Charge, the Materials being Brick and Tile, two Stables, a Dove-cot, Corn-chamber, and Wall to the Yard, all of them necessary to the Premises. But the same Person, who took Mr. *F--s*'s Farm, took also this Farm from Mr. *R--s* by advancing twenty Shillings more in the Rent; and for this, Security was also given by the same opposing Trustee. Mr. *R--s* occupies a large Quantity of other Ground in the Parish and Neighbourhood, Part his own Land, and other Parts hired; but he lived in the House situate on the *N--* Farm, until he built a very good one about six Years ago upon his own Estate. And it is well known in *Ev-rt-n*, that, had he not been bid out at this Time, but had taken a Lease, he intended to have built a new House upon our Farm, and to have placed his Son in it. But this Tenant having already done such great Things upon his *N--* Farm, the Hardship of his Case was too great to be palliated; the Libeller has therefore prudently omitted all mention of it.

These

These two Farms the *N*—Inhabitant has since disposed of, the one to one of his Sons, and the other to a Person of *E—rt--n*, for whom probably it was at first taken in Trust; but we never heard that the Under-tenants have paid any more than the Rents given by the Lessee. The Indenture of Lease, it is said, has been given to the latter, for which the *N*—Inhabitant has received from him five Pounds.

WE shall now explain to the Reader what passed in Regard to another Farm, the Rent of which was raised from thirteen Pounds to fifteen Pounds a Year. This was that of *J--D--w's*. The Tenant in Possession bid, like the others, the former Rent, which a Man of *Ev--rt--n* raised to fourteen Pounds; on this the Tenant bid fifteen; the *E--rt--n* Man then advanced to sixteen Pounds, and no one bidding more, he appeared to be the best Bidder. The Man who had outbid the other, not being a Tenant to the Estate, but an entire Stranger to the Trustees, it became their Duty to inquire into his Character and Circumstances. Many of his Neighbours were present, and answered the Questions asked; not one of them gave him a good Word. Mr. *F--s*, who spoke of his Circumstances in the most favourable Manner of any, said, that during the Man's own Life Time, he thought the Rent might be paid, but in Case of his Decease, he esteemed it very precarious; and the former *R--v--r*, who it seems knew something of him, declared, that he believed Mr. *F--s*'s Account to be a true one. But, if the Bidder refused to shew his Writings, which are the main Vouchers of an Estate, this was a just Reason of Suspicion, that after his Decease at furthest, the Land would not be subject to his Debts and Contracts; and in Truth, though he owns a Cottage, yet the whole Land he can pretend to, except that, is (it seems) something during his Wife's Life, which afterwards goes to her Children by a former Husband. That the defamed Family insisted upon a Mortgage on this Occasion, is a most infamous Falshood, they have been always superior to base or sordid Views; and we do not doubt, but if the Man had appeared to be in himself sufficient, he would have been accepted, without any legal Subjection of his Property by a Mortgage.

It is here said in the Libel, that the *Ch--w--n* descending on the Nature of Securities, the Father very ungentely interrupted him with these Words, *You make a long Preamble about nought; let me talk.* All that have any

Knowledge of Mr. *H--n*, the Respect he has for his Family, and Regard for himself, know he could not speak in to unguarded and improper a Manner. Mr. *H--n* the Ch--w--n was on some Occasion opening to the People some Transactions, in which he was very particular, being desirous to explain every Thing fully to them; but the Father thinking he was too circumstantial, and being near him, gave him a Hint rather to contract the Discourse. We do not remember at what Vestry this happened; but it must be from hence that the Libeller has drawn his ridiculous Representation of Mr. *H--n*, and applied it to this Story.

The Bidder's own Land not appearing to Satisfaction, the next Thing talked of was the Suretyship, which he pretended might be probably obtained. He mentioned a Gentleman by Name, whose Security no one could have objected to; but the Trustees had not the least Assurance brought them from that Gentleman, who lived at a great Distance from *N--*, nor did they believe that he would engage himself for the Bidder. They esteemed him therefore in the Words of the Decree, *to be neither capable of paying, nor giving good Security to pay the Rent*; and consequently they were obliged in Duty to reject him. The *N--* Parishioners at their Meeting, expressed their great Dislike of the Man; yet this is the Man, to whom the *N--* Inhabitant has let, or rather whom he took in Trust for, Mr. *R--s's* Farm; this Person has put his Son into Possession of it.

It is well known, that *J-- D--w* has taken his Farm at too high a Rent; after his Return Home, he shewed a great Dislike to his new Contract; but the Trustees insisted upon and required the Completion of it, it having been, as they told him, his own voluntary Contract.

The *T--n Cl--k* is represented as favouring this particular Tenant at the Expence of the Charity Estate, and of his own Honesty; by minuting him down at the former Rent of thirteen Pounds, though the Tenant had advanced in Bidding forty Shillings a Year more: and that being charged with doing this, he persisted in a Denial of the Advance, till overcome by the Testimony of other Witnesses. This we do declare to be a Piece of History, of which neither the *T--n Cl--k*, who is the Person accused, nor any we have conversed with, who were present, have the least Remembrance: We will not presume to say, that the *T--n Cl--k*, or any other Man is incapable of a Mistake: However, nothing is more certain, than that this Man, as well

as all the other Tenants, was quite unknown, and an absolute Stranger to him. An Attempt of this Kind must also appear very weak and ridiculous ; in the Nature of Things, there could not be a Possibility of its succeeding : A Fraud, which cannot prevail but by the Secrecy of committing it, is not to be practised before a Crowd of Witnesses.

It is likewise objected in the pretended History of this ever memorable Day, that the Trustees were extremely partial in their Preference of the *E--rt--n* Tenants ; that they intended none else should be the *Successful*, though they should be the best Bidders ; and, that they therefore rigorously demanded Security to be given by others, which they would not even ask from these Tenants. We believe the Trustees discharged their Duty to the Estate, in requiring Security from two particular Persons, as above related ; and in this, as well as in all other Transactions of that Day, the Parishioners who were present of every Degree, were apparently pleased with their Conduct. But it is asked, why did they not require Security also from the rest ? The Answer is very plain, The rest were all of them Tenants in Possession, whom they esteemed capable of paying their Rent, because Experience had fully shewn that they were. The late R--c--r and Ch--w--n did himself publicly acknowledge they were an excellent Set of sober and industrious Husbandmen, and spoke very highly in their Commendation. All Matters that concern the Public, ought to be acted in the most impartial and disinterested Manner : Yet we are not to omit mentioning the Occasion, which at this Time produced a second Auction to re-let the same Estates. These valuable Tenants, whom the former Trustees had before accepted without demanding Security, did not now attend to bid for and enter into new Farms, but to continue in the Possession of the old ; and the Method of Auction became the necessary Means of rendering Justice to their Complaints. A Demand of Security to be given by these Tenants, might probably have afforded just Matter of Reflection to the Libeller.

It may not be improper to take Notice on this Occasion, that we may discern even through the Author's own Account, partial and interested as it is, the Justice of the *E--rt--n* Complaint : It is indeed scarce possible to disguise Truth in such a Manner, but that some faint glimmering of it will appear. He tells us in general, in Page 27 of his great Work, that the Rents of the Charity Estate were *much advanced* at this public Bidding ; and yet, according to
his

his own Accounts when brought together, the whole Advancement was a mere Trifle. Though the Number was fifteen of the Farms set to Auction, the Rents were raised only four Pounds a Year. Twelve Tenants of the fifteen retook their Farms at the same Rent, (as has been already observed), no Persons offering more; notwithstanding that all the Biddings were now to stand clear of the Tax: But the libellous Author takes Notice of only two Advancements, both of which together amount to no more than three Pounds a Year, not meddling with Mr. R-*s*'s Farm, for the Reasons before given.

This was too glaring a Circumstance to escape the Observation of an Author of such a Spirit; to avoid the Force of it, he therefore tells a very improbable Story of the defamed Ch-w-n, and ascribes to his Advice of Secresy to the Tenants, that the neighbouring Farmers did not come over to bid them out of their Possessions. Nothing can be more idle than to suppose any such Council was given, or that there could be any Need of it. The Day of Bidding, which concerned such a Number of People, could not be, nor was it, a Secret in the Parish; the greater Number of the Tenants came to N--, which is computed to be twenty Miles from E--rt--n, the Day before that of bidding. And all Biddings are decreed to be between the Hours of twelve and two: It was at a Time of the Year when Days are short, and the Darknes of the Mornings might, if the Tenants had any clandestine Purpose, have favoured a private stealing off from the Village. We have seen an Assessment of that Year, in which fifteen, the Number of Tenants who came over, is not one fourth Part of the Parishioners there assessed. It is ridiculous to imagine the Tenants could want to be advised, not to ride into the Country and invite the Neighbours to bid for their Farms: The usual public Notice was given of the Time and Place, as the Decree directs; and we have not the least Reason to think there was any want of Industry in the R---d to acquaint the Country all round, and procure other Bidders; but the Valuation was too high to encourage them, nor were there any who desired to have the Farms on higher Terms than those who possessed them.

WE shall now take Notice of what is pretended to be the main Design of the defamed Ch-w-n in protecting these Tenants of the Charity Estates. In Page 18, the Author ascribes it *not to any Regard or real Tendernefs for them, but to a Family Motive*, which in Page 15, he had explained to be,

be, that a large Number of Leases, which the Tenants were obliged by the Terms of the Treaty to take, were to be prepared by his own Brother, who was to receive from every Tenant two Guineas and an half. We cannot but think the circumstantial Relation we have already given of the Whole, might be sufficient to vindicate the laudable Motives of this or any other of the Trustees; but as the Ch—w—n is particularly struck at in this Passage, we must beg the Reader's Patience, to exculpate him, since the Truth, as soon as it appears, will shew that he neither was, nor could be, actuated by this base and sordid View.

It may be recollected from the preceding Sheets, that after the Complaint in Regard to the Land-Tax appeared by Inquiry to be well grounded, he was willing and strongly moved to redress the Grievance, and to abate the Tax by an Order to the R-v-r; this Method would have answered the Complaint without any Biddings, and no Leases could then have been granted. It is therefore most evident the Ch—w—n undertook, and laboured to redress the Grievance, not for the Sake of making Business for the T—n-Cl—k, but from the same Principle of common Benevolence and Justice which moved the other Trustees. But because Leases afterwards happened to be granted, tho' in the Manner we have before related, To ascribe his Conduct to that Motive, is a very unjust Method of misrepresenting his Intentions, and is contrary as well to Reason as Charity. The Behaviour also of the Ch—w—n and his Brother at the Bidding could not countenance the least Suspicion of this Kind. The Libeller has not remembered, that several of the Tenants did take their Farms to hold them again from Year to Year, and not upon Lease; but he is very happy at the Art of forgetting Things that would make against his Purpose. The Truth is, the Parishioners, sensible of the Hardships of these distressed Tenants, openly declared their Opinion in Favour of them, and rejoiced in the Measures which they saw taken for their Relief. The Observation of it supplied a Thought in Favour of the poorer Tenants; that, as they were not likely to be disturbed for the future, they might save the Charges of a Lease. This Motion was very cordially and readily embraced by the defamed Family; and the T—n-Cl—k and his Brother are remembered to have even pressed some of the Tenants not to put themselves to that Expence; and it is sufficiently known, that six Tenants of the fifteen returned to their small Parts of the Estate Occupiers from Year to Year.

How

How very unfair therefore is the Conduct of the Libeller, who has so piteously represented the Case of poor Cottagers, that one would imagine they were unmercifully driven to take Leases, whether they would or not, and most grievously burthened with the Expence. It may be proper also in this Place to take Notice of a Remark of his in Page 23, where it is said, that when Security was insisted on to be given by one of the Tenants, the defamed Ch—w—n replied, that Security from him was needless, because there would always be a sufficient Stock upon the Ground for the Payment of an half Year's Rent ; but that this Argument was not suffered to be applied afterwards in Favour of a Native of N—, who took the Farm late Mr. F—s's. It is very probable the Ch—w—n might use that additional Argument in Favour of one of the Tenants from Year to Year ; which Circumstance alone demonstrates his Moderation, that he was by no Means intent upon his Brother's Gain, but shewed the same Tendernefs for a Man who was to have no Lease, and by whom therefore his Brother would not gain a single Farthing ; for he has never asked, nor received any Thing for drawing a Demise from Year to Year.

THE Representation of the T--n-C--k's Fees, is very unfair, which are said to be *two Guineas and an half for every Lease* ; whatever Face such an Assertion might carry at first Sight, a true and full Explanation will shew, that his Profits are very reasonable. He takes for every Pair of Leases, as former T—n-Cl--ks before him have done, two Pounds twelve Shillings, of which the M--y--r has five Shillings, and the C--rp-n Officers the like Sum : This reduces them to two Guineas, of which he publicly acquainted the Parishioners and Tenants at the Meeting. The Leases granted at *Ev--rt--n* were nine ; the Stamps, Parchment, and ingrossing so many Pair, being Skins of the first Size and closely writ, and the Expence of a Journey to see them signed, brought his Profit down to less than twenty-nine Shillings each Pair of Leases. We are to observe, that he was necessarily out two Days in his Journey to *Ev--rt--n*, and this Journey saved the Expence and Trouble to the Tenants of coming to N-- to sign their Leases : He was well intitled to be paid for this Journey ; but so far was he from asking more than the Fees, that he even paid his own Expences.

But the Author is very angry with the T—n-Cl—k for making out two several Leases to the Inhabitant of N—, who had taken the two Farms of Mr. F—s and Mr. R--s, which

which he thinks ought to have been included in one and the same Lease. It is true (as he alledges) they were both taken on the same Day, they both lay in the same Parish, and were Parts of the same Donor's Estate: But they were two distinct Messuages and Farms; the Contracts as well as Rents were several; the very Terms of entring on them commenced at different Times, one from the *Lady-Day* then immediately following, and the other from the *Lady-Day* twelve Month; and they were also to expire at different Times. The Inhabitant paid the five Guineas with all Readiness, which he certainly had not done, if he had thought himself abused. He is none of your mealy-mouth'd Folks; the Libeller knows him well enough; and, to excuse his not objecting to the T--n-Clerk's Fees, he ridiculously assigns for a Reason his Fear and Apprehension of the Ch--w--n's Power. The Inhabitant knew himself to be the best Bidder. The Charge of the two Leases alone amounted to £. 5:4:0; but for them, and the special Bond of Security, the T--n-Cl--k requir'd no more than five Guineas; which this Writer calls two Guineas and an Half for one Lease.

We do imagine *the Trustee, who, it is said, had so fully, and so frequently remonstrated against the grievous Expence of the Leases*, which he calls raising unmerciful Contributions, would be content, if the Fees were so far reduced, that nothing should remain of Profit to the T---n-Cl--k. This same Trustee, tho' also a Member of the C---rp---n, had the *Modesty* to propose, at one of the publick Meetings in the Church, that the other Attornies of N-----, should in their Turns, be employ'd to prepare these C---rp---n Leases, and have each an equal Share of Profit from the publick Business, with their Officer the T--n-Cl--k; a Proposal, which was spoken of by some of the Attornies themselves with Resentment and the utmost Indignation. But the extreme Ingratitude of this Motion was the very Soul of the Man who made it. That Family which had been the most instrumental in recovering the Estates themselves, and establishing his Power in them, which had not received a single Farthing for their Labour, he was now endeavouring, in a most unprecedented Manner, to deprive of making the Leases. The T--n-Cl--k has been in the Office seven Years, during which Time the Leases have not amounted, one Year with another, to three Guineas in a Year; tho' all his Predecessors in Memory, have used to make more than twice as many in the same Number of Years.

THE Author in P. 16. says, *the T--n-Cl--k was a considerable*

derable Gainer by a Multitude of Leases, and the Parishioners considerable Losers by a Multitude of Abatements; in P. 48. he calls it *their prodigious Detriment*; and at length, in P. 66. allowing that in a certain Article or two five or six Pounds was saved by the Ch--w--ns, he wickedly adds, *That such a saving is not any Reparation for the Loss of abundantly more than so many hundreds.* As the Abatements of Rent are opposed to the Profits of the T--n-Cl--k, which Profits we have just stated fairly, and explained at full, let us now see what these Abatements of Rent truly and really are. The Farms taken in *January 1747* amounted in the whole Rent to £. 114 : 3 : 0 a Year, besides the Land-Tax; to the Payment of which Tax, the Tenants were compelled to agree in the Manner which has been the Subject of the before-mentioned Complaint: These Farms, it seems, were taken for a Term of three Years. But as these Tenants of *January 1747* had agreed, tho' through Necessity, and contrary to their Intentions, and their just Expectations, to discharge the Tax, they could not dispute the Payment of it, so long as that Agreement remain'd in Force; wherefore, they paid the full Rent, without any Allowance for the Year's Tax of 1748. Had not a Remedy been applied to the Grievance, the Term had expired last *Lady-Day*, and the Farms must then again have been bid for to be taken from that Time. What a strange harrassing is this of honest well-meaning Tenants! and what Opportunity, and even Provocation must this have given to bad and designing People to impoverish their Farms, when it was known that they were to be thrown up even at three-Years end, again set to publick Auction to be bid for, and taken by any who should offer an Advance the least that could be: There was no Grounds to hope they would do any other than make the most of them for their own Time. This foolish Term of three Years, by mutual Consent of the Trustees and Tenants, was determined after the first Year; which only occasioned the public Auction to return two Years sooner. Now, as the Land-Tax in the Year 1749 was Four Shillings, and in the Year 1750 was Three Shillings in the Pound; and when the Tax is Four Shillings, the Estates at *Ev--rt--n* pay Three Shillings upon an Average; and when we have considered for these two Years Three Pounds a Year, which is the advanced Rent of the Farms of *January 1747*, the Difference to the Parish will be found a mere Trifle. But had it been otherwise, we conclude it as much the Interest of the Charity Estate, as the Duty of the Trustees to have dealt fairly and honourably with the Tenants, who had acted well,

well, and many of them much improv'd the Estates. The other Farms at *Ev-rt-n* which were bid for at the same Time, amounted to the yearly Rent of Eighty Five Pounds Twelve Shillings; but these had never paid, nor were they taken to pay the Land-Tax, so that no Abatement can be pretended to have been made in regard to them: They were all, except one, retaken upon the same Rents as before, which had been offered in the Church, and accepted as the highest Rents by former Trustees; and that one which was otherwise, was advanced Twenty Shillings a Year.

THIS very Transaction of the *Ev--rt--n* Leases clearly and evidently shews the real Deference and Regard which the defamed Ch--w--ns and Trustees paid to the L--d Ch--r's Decree, tho' the Libeller takes a great deal of Pains to prove the contrary. The Trustees earnestly desired that all the *Ev--rt--n* Tenants might continue in their Farms, particularly Mr. *F--s* and Mr. *R--s*, the two who were bid out; and the Reason is very plain: these were People of Wealth, and had prov'd for a long Time very excellent Tenants. It was extremely disagreeable to Persons who had the Interest of the Charity at Heart, to see the Farms taken from such Tenants for a trifling Advance of Rent, no Ways comparable to the real Advantages the Estates would have received from their Care. Scarce any Person whatsoever would have attempted it, but the *N—* Inhabitant who did it; nor would he, if he had not been, as we can make no doubt, encouraged to it by the opposing Trustee. Mr. *H--n* the Ch--w--n, whose Principle in the whole Transaction was humane and laudable, tho' called upon this Occasion *a riding Officer in Trust*, would, at any Time, ride twice as far as from *N—* to *Ev--rt--n*, if his Trouble could prevail, to serve the Interest and Credit of the Town, by keeping such Tenants upon the Estate. The Goodness of Tenants will be always found of much more Value than a trifling Advance in the Rent: But it was not the Business of the opposing Party to be sensible of this. However, notwithstanding the Inclination of the Trustees to the old Tenants, they were set aside; and the Leases were duly executed by them to the new Tenant, who bid the most Rent. And for what Reason could this be? Surely for no other than in Obedience to the Decree. We cannot expect from the new Tenant, either such great Improvements as have been already made by Mr. *R--s*, in building upon his Farm, or such as he had intended to have made, had he continued to have been our Tenant. We believe it will not be disputed by any, that Tenants, for whom Security

rity need not be given, must be more eligible than such, for whom it is thought necessary to require it. Mr. *H--n* the *Ch--w--n* owns many Farms in the very Neighbourhood, but three Miles from *Ev--rt--n*; his Character and his Family's is such, that their Tenants apprehend not any Danger of Disturbance for a trifling Advance of Rent: and yet tis known, that Mr. *H--n*'s Farms in that Neighbourhood are much cheaper to the Tenants than the *N--* Farms at *Ev--rt--n*. But a Decree, tho' well calculated for the general Good, may happen not to fit some particular Case: However, it must and ought to be observed, even by those who are sensible of the Disadvantages. The Trustees have not a Power to change, or deviate from it; and, if they should assume such a Power to themselves on any Occasion, it is not possible to foresee how far the Bounds might be transgressed afterwards.

NOTHING could be more unavoidably necessary, than was the whole Conduct of the calumniated Trustees in this *Ev--rt--n* Affair. In the first Place it was a Demand of *Justice* to relieve them; and in the next it was a Matter of *Prudence*. The Tenants were some of them greatly oppressed by an evident Breach of their well-known Agreements; and the others were insnared and precipitated into extremely hard, unequal Bargains. If a deaf Ear had been turned to their just Complaints, if their Grievance had not been taken into Consideration, nor any Redress offered by the new Trustees, what other natural Consequence could have been expected, than to have seen the Charity Estate at once deserted by the Tenants? They had certainly provided for themselves in other Places, where they might live with more Confidence and Safety. And what a Reproach would it have been in the whole Country, that so considerable a Town as *N--* should oppress a poor Village, and drive the Tenants, by unfair Proceedings, from their Farms? No good Tenants would after this have treated with us. The Farms must have lain unoccupied, and we must have been glad to receive with open Arms the very meanest Persons in the Place of the former excellent Tenants. It was owing to the worthy Labours of the defamed Trustees, that the main Body of the Tenants were secured to the Estate. The Oppression of the Trustees, indeed, was not all the Tenants had at that Time to labour under. The Cattle Distemper raged in that Country during the Year of the abused *Ch--w--ns*; *Ev--rt--n* did not escape, and the *N--* Tenants there, in particular, were many of them great Sufferers by it. This Circumstance must have added
gratly

greatly to the Difficulty of procuring other Tenants. The Trustees, it is true, did not contribute any Thing to ease the great Losses of the Tenants, who knowing the Situation they were in did not ask it; but to have refused at such a Time to remove a real Oppression, had been worse than the Oppression itself. One of the greatest Failings of the M--y--r and Al--m--n, during their Management of the Charity Estates, was the letting them at too easy a Rent. The R——d has ever since gone into the contrary Extreme of great Racking and Oppression: But a middle Conduct is doubtless the best and most reputable, both for the Town and the Tenants.

THE wretched Author of the Libel having insinuated, that Mr. H——n the Ch--w--n must have had or expected some great Returns from the Tenants, for his Trouble and Readiness to serve them; we think it proper to declare our Sentiments of it, as a most vile and groundless Aspersion. We appeal to Mr. F--fs, to Mr. R--s, and all the Tenants upon the Estate, as well of the Farms as of the smaller Parcels, those who have, and those who have not Leases; and we appeal to the World, that all these know that the Ch--w--n did neither receive, nor expect to receive from any of them, the least Gratuity whatsoever. It is no small Aggravation of the Crime of propagating Falshoods, that the Person who is guilty of it does it knowingly; this is very eminently the Case with this Author in the Generality of his Work, but no where more so than in the present Instance. The Libeller knows the Gentleman he has abused to be greatly above any such Meanness. The Contagion of the Cattle visited Mr. H——n's Estate in the Ev--rt--n Neighbourhood, and some other Places; and tho' he did not move to the Trustees or Parish, to make any Allowance to the Tenants of the Trust-Estate, yet both he and his Father distributed to their own Tenants with great Generosity and Chearfulness. All who know the defamed Ch--w--n will, indeed, readily enough acquit him of the base, sordid Actions, which are ascribed to him in this Libel.

C H A P. V.

*An Account of the Farm at S—dw—h in the Parish
of B—lb—h.*

WE have in this Manner gone thro' all that relates to letting the Estates of Mr. *M—s* at *Ev—rt—n*. The same great Benefactor, we are to observe, gave also a Farm at *S—dw—h* in the Parish of *B—lb—h* near *Y—k*, which was let in the Church, in *January* 1748, a Week before the *never-to-be-forgotten* Day on which the Farms at *Ev—rt—n* were bid for. The Libeller in P. 40. has cast a most scandalous and wicked Reflection upon the defam'd *Ch—w—n*, as being in a Confederacy with the new Tenant of this Estate, to compliment him with a Year's Rent. We shall, thro' the Course of this Work, think it a Duty to explain the Things to the Bottom, on which such Charges as these are founded; since to explain them, is to prove the Falseness of what this infamous Author has asserted from them. This particular Article it may be proper to set in its true Light in this Place; principally, as the History of this Farm will confirm what we have said of the prudent Measures taken by the *Ch—w—ns*, and other Trustees, in the *Ev—rt—n* Affairs; and give further Proof of the bad Effects of surprizing and racking the Tenants of the Charity Estates.

This Farm had suffered very much by the Management of the former Trustees, especially by that of the *V—r*. Mr. *N—n*, a reverend Clergyman, had it by Lease for a Term of Twenty One Years, which expired at *Michaelmas* 1747; and about a Twelvemonth before the Expiration, he wrote to the *R—d* to know if the Trustees would grant him a new Lease, and upon what Terms. In half a Year, viz. at Lady-Day 1747, an Answer was sent to him: But why so very late? We shall relate the Fact, and leave the Reader to judge of the Reason. The Answer intimated, that he might continue his Farm upon the old Rent for a Year longer. This every one would take to mean a Year after the Lease expired; but Mr. *N—n*, not certainly understanding what was intended, wrote again for a clear Explanation, whether the *R—d* meant a Year from Lady-Day 1747, his Time of writing, or from *Michaelmas* 1747, when the Lease was to expire; but to this he did not return him any Answer at all. However, he thought, as it was

very natural and obvious, that it must mean a Year longer than his Term ; and in this View the Hay was stacked upon the Estate, and all the other Steps taken accordingly. But Mr. N—n afterwards, about the Month of *August*, happening to be at N—, called upon the late R—v—r, the Person celebrated by the Author under the Name of the excellent Ch—w—n, to be assur'd what was the true Meaning of the R—d's Letter: This Gentleman told him that the Year was to end at Lady-Day 1748 ; but the Tenant not choosing to be thus imposed upon, and made to pay a full half Year's Rent for little or no Profit, it being the Winter Season, did hereupon disclaim all further Concerns with the Farm, after the Expiration of his Lease at *Michaelmas* 1747. From this Time to Lady-Day 1749, being a Year and a half, the Farm lay vacant. It is true Mr. N—n was invited, some Months after the Lease expired, to enter into Treaty with the Trustees ; but the Terms being much too high in this Offer were immediately rejected by him. If the R—d had taken a due Care, at the Time when Mr. N—n wrote to treat for a new Term, to provide a Tenant for the Estate, we can make no Doubt but a Person would have been found to take it upon the Expiration of the former Lease ; or, even having slipt the proper Time, had the Trustees suffered Mr. N—n to have continued upon the Farm a Year longer, they might have retrieved that Neglect ; or, finally, had they afterwards been willing to agree with him upon reasonable Terms, he would probably have retaken his Farm. To whom then must we impute the Loss to the Public of three half Years Rent of this Farm, let at Forty Pounds a Year ? Have we not in this Instance an apparent Demonstration of the ruinous Effects, caused by low Schemes against the Tenants, and by the Expectations of immoderate Rents ? At one of the first Meetings in the Chamber, after the Choice of the new Officers, the R—d being present, his whole Conduct, in Relation to this Farm, was laid open in the Presence of the Trustees ; and he could say nothing to excuse it.

The Farm was now, at the Time the defam'd Ch—w—ns entered into Office, in a most desolate Condition. It consists of Arable, Meadow, and Pasture, it lies contiguous, is wholly Inclosure, and fences itself quite round. But, being untenanted and neglected, the Neighbours (it seems) were unwilling the Profits should be lost ; the Gates were all except one broken down, the Fences become ruinous, and the Grass over-run and eaten up by Cattle of all Kinds,

during the Winter and Spring. The new R-v-r, Mr. Cl-gb, when he took a View of the Farm in May 1748, saw a hundred Head of Cattle of different Sorts depasturing there, as if it had been a Common; and Accounts of a like Kind were received by Letters from Persons desirous to treat about the taking it. Such was the Condition of this Part of the Trust Estate during the just-mentioned Administration. But the new Trustees presently took Measures for letting the Farm: One of these was the publishing Advertisements in the Y-k Papers; these were seen by Mr. M-rob, a very worthy Gentleman, who lived in that Parish, and raised in him a sincere Friend to the Charity Estate. Sorry to see it neglected in the Manner it was, he generously offered his Advice and Assistance, which were thankfully accepted of, and proved very beneficial.

The whole or most Part of the Estate was at this Time incapable of being let, until it was some Way put into Order: The R-v-r gave Directions, which our Friend Mr. Mr-ch took Care to see executed, and a Person was engaged to view the Closes daily. The Trustees found many Hindrances to an immediate letting of the Farm, nor with all their Industry could they procure a Tenant before the Lady-day following. The new Ch-w-ns Title was disputed till they were sworn into Office upon the 18th of May; and Mr. N-n's Lease happening to commence from Michaelmas was a singular Instance, the uniform Practice of that Country being to enter on their Farms at Lady day. Another Obstacle to the letting this Estate was, the extreme Value set upon this Farm by the Trustees: The late R-v-r had been sent down by the former Trustees to value it; he delivered his Valuation to the new Trustees at sixty-seven Pounds ten Shillings a Year, as the least Valuation that could be made: If the Estate had lain at the Town End of N-, we should have thought the Valuation very just; for it afterwards appeared, that forty Pounds a Year was a full Rent for it. But the greatest Difficulty was the want of a House and Conveniencies upon the Estate: One or two Persons were willing to give forty-two Pounds a Year for it; and this was the most that was ever offered, though neither they nor any others, except the Tenant who has now taken the Farm, would accept it but on Condition of the necessary Buildings. There are standing on it the Remains or Ruins of an ancient House or Cottage of two small Bays, the Thatch and Studs are mostly gone, and the Whole in such Condition that Mr.

Cl-

Cl-b the *R--v-r* rode into it on Horse-back. This is all the Building at this Time upon the Farm, there being neither Stable, Barn, nor any other Edifice whatsoever.

When the Trustees found it was vain to expect a Tenant before Lady-day, they then considered how they should make the most Profit from the Farm in the mean while: Several of the Closes were let for the Remainder of that Year, and the Hay, by Contract, was stacked and eaten upon the Premises; two Meadow Closes also being unlet were mown, and the Hay well got, stacked, thatched and fenced by the Care of the same generous Friend. This likewise afforded ample Time to seek for a Tenant.

The Farm was now again advertised in the *Y--k* Papers, and it was declared that Mr. *C--gh* the *R--v-r* would be two Days at *Y--k*. The *R--v-r* saw several Persons who would have taken it, but they all expected a House and Conveniencies to be built on it. After some Time Mr. *M--rch* sent Word to *N--*, that a rich and worthy Person had applied to him as a Tenant, and might probably take the Farm, and not require the Buildings to be erected. He was encouraged in the Intent; and in the Beginning of *November* the Farm was set to Auction, to be entered upon the Lady-day following: This Gentleman (Mr. *Kn--pe* by Name) came over from *Y--k*, and was the only Person who bid; he offered thirty-five Pounds a Year; another Man, procured by the shrewd Landlord to come to *N--* on this Occasion, made his Appearance, but not bidding, was reproached by him for want of Spirit, though we may well imagine he was best acquainted with his own Concerns. The Farm being put up at a higher Rent than was bid, the Trustees did not accept it; the Person, however, after the Meeting broke up, declared, that he was willing to advance five Pounds more than he had offered in the Church. The Trustees apprehended they could not now agree with him, unless the Farm should be again bid for in the Church; and he would not comply to take so long a Journey a second Time. At length proper Covenants were agreed on with him, if he should appear to be best Bidder; and he signed a Paper empowering a *N--* Inhabitant to bid in his Name forty Pounds a Year, at the next Meeting in the Church for letting this Farm.

On Sunday the 18th of *December* the *P--sh Cl--k* received a Notice from the *T--n-Cl--k*, to be published in the Church as usual, for letting this *B--lb--gh* Farm; but, during the Time of the Evening Service, the *P--sh-Cl--k*

came to the Ch—w—ns in their Seat, to acquaint them that he would not publish that Notice ; and he was as good as his Word. A Day or two after, he acknowledged to two of the Town's Ch-w-ns, that he had received a Message, during the Time of Divine Service, from a certain R—d Gentleman who was then also at his own House, to forbid him, on peril of his Place, to publish this Notice : Yet the next Sunday he suffered the P—sh Cl--k to publish it ; tho' he then sent to the Church, as we have before related, an Order to the Cl--k against publishing Notice of letting the Farms at *Ev--rt-n*.

In *January* the *B--lb-h* Farm was again bid for. The *N---* Inhabitant appeared in Behalf of Mr *Kn--pe*, and bid forty Pounds a Year ; he was again the only Bidder, and was now accepted of by the Trustees. The *V--r*, as well as all the other Trustees, (except the *V--r's* Ch--w--n, who probably might be absent), signed the Agreement with Mr. *Kn--pe* : this was a clear Proof that every Body was now satisfied with what was done. As high a Rent was obtained as could be got ; neither could, nor did, any Person in the Parish find the least Fault with the Transaction.

HAVING thus at large declared what was the State of the Farm at that Time, and under what Disadvantages as well as in what Manner it was let, all which is necessary to the understanding the Nature of the Charge upon the defamed Ch--w--n, we come now to consider the Charge itself. It is pretended in the Libel, that he was *very warm to allow this Tenant a full Year's Rent for Improvements, though, as it is there said, he had but a few Months before taken the Farm on a Lease for twenty-one Years, set at a very low Rent, in Consideration and upon his Promise that he would make all possible Improvements upon it.* The Libeller then asks a shrewd Question, *What could induce this Ch--w--n to be so over-generous, in thus complimenting the Man with the forty Pounds ?* In answer to which he affirms, what he never practised in his Life, *that every Man ought to be grateful for Favours and Indulgencies.* He moreover felicitates the Parishioners of *N---* for their Removal of him, on Account of the dreadful Waste he had already made of the Public Money, and particularly of this Compliment of forty Pounds intended to Mr. *Kn--pe*, *if this Ch--w--n had been rechosen.* The Wickedness of this infamous Author knows no Bounds ; which the Reader must plainly see, by this and all the other Explanations of his Calumnies.

The

The Truth is this. Some little time before Lady-day, when Mr. *Kn-pe*'s Lease was to commence, he represented by Letter to the Trustees, that the Farm being distant from any Town, there was no Place for a Servant to dwell in; and therefore he desired the Cottage might be speedily repaired. But, being now engaged in the Lease, he added, if the Trustees would be at fifty Pounds Expence, or allow him that Sum, he would be at the Remainder, and would erect a new House and Barn upon the Premises, and convert the ruinous Cottage into a Stable. This was a free Offer from Mr. *Kn-pe*: for neither before nor at the Time of his taking the Farm, was there any mention made by the Trustees, or by Mr. *Kn-pe*, of Improvements to be done by the Tenant, (a Tenant was then wanted and sought for, and not the Farm); nor is there one Syllable of Improvements mentioned either in the Articles of Agreement or in the Lease. Now the Answer returned to Mr. *Kn-pe*'s Offer was, that the Trustees could not immediately enter into a Treaty of that Kind, until it was seen who should be chosen the Ch--w--ns; but they desired he would send them in the mean time a particular Account of the Dimensions, &c. of the House and Barn, and what the Sum was which he should advance; and in case the old Ch--w--ns should be re-chosen, and the Proposals approved of, that they might probably be willing to allow towards these Improvements the Sum of forty Pounds, which is a Year's Rent of the Farm. Could any Answer have been given more prudent than this? Mr. *Kn-pe*'s Offer was greatly advantageous to the Farm; the Trustees, who had felt the Difficulty of procuring a Tenant for it, for the want of these very Conveniencies, were sensible of the Necessity of them; and when the Lease of this Gentleman expires, it is probable the Estate must be at five times the Expence to erect them.

The Trustees could not have any Interest of their own in the allowing this Money. It could serve no present Purpose of theirs at N—. It was even sinking so much from the Application of their Year; but they had a secret Pleasure to reflect, that by an Act (we may call it) of Self-denial, they were securing to the Charity Estate and the Public a very considerable future Good.

The Cottage, however, at the coming in of the new Tenant, ought to have been made tenantable at the Expence of the Estate, tho' Mr. *Kn-pe*'s Proposal was refused; and this must have taken some Part of the forty Pounds. To

use that Money to other Purposes which ought to be expended in necessary Repairs, is taking very ruinous Measures: What the Consequences may be of a general Practice of that Kind, we leave to the serious Consideration of every Parishioner.

BUT we ought to observe here that, notwithstanding these Reflections, great things have been done by the former excellent Trustees for some Tenants, in making what they had taken commodious to them; particularly for the excellent Ch—w—n, for whom a Person took in Trust a House in N—— to enter to at Lady-day 1747. He did not take it for the Ch—w—n's own Possession, but to let it to an Under-tenant. This House had been built some Years before, from the Ground, with Brick and Tile: Yet this Ch—w—n at the Account Day of *January* 1747 produced Bills, for Repairs, to the Amount of, we do not say, a Year's Rent only, but a Sum more than five times the yearly improved Rent; and this the former Trustees most readily allowed, and entered in the Account Book.

This same Ch-w-n, who was likewise R-v-r, took also three other Brick and Tile Houses in N—, which had been built new from the Ground some Years before: these he took, from Lady day 1747, for the Sake also of letting them to Under-tenants. In *January* 1747 he accounted for the half Year due at the *Michaelmas* preceding: But, upon the Account Day in *January* 1748, the new R—v-r brought in these three Houses blank as to any Rent; the late R—v-r having alledged that, by Consent of the Trustees, he was to retain one Year's Rent of these Houses on account of Repairs. Here then was a Year's Rent allowed to the Tenant, and an implicit Faith placed in him: No Bills were produced to shew what Repairs had been done, (tho' we doubt not but that the Money was laid out); nor any Engagement on his Part to lay out any Money of his own. How widely different is this Allowance of a Year's Rent from the Case of the S—d—th Tenant, to whom the Trustees might probably have allowed a Year's Rent, in Consideration of his laying out four times as much of his own Money in the new Erections? Yet these are the Gentlemen, who are continually complimenting each other in the Vestry and elsewhere, for their Notableness, Generosity, and what not?

This is the real State of the Case, in what is charged on the defamed Ch—w—n as so great a Crime; and in this

Light

Light it must appear a thing not only justifiable from the Conduct of others in the like Circumstances, but an Intent to do the Estate concerned a very considerable Service.

Thus it is however, that no Action is above the reach of Misrepresentation by a Man who will tell his Story his own way ; who will sink upon the World the Circumstances that should explain it, and represent the others, not as they are, but as his own vitiated Fancy paints them, or his malevolent Heart would have the World suppose them.

C H A P. VI.

Charges answered concerning the Tradesmens Bills, offered at the Days of Account and Application for the Estates of M---s and B---n ; Also concerning the Iron Chests ordered by the Decree for the three Estates of M---s, B---n and P---t.

WE shall now proceed to explain the Matter of the Account and the Application of B--n's Estate. This is ordered by the Decree to be on the First of January. The Charge in the Libel, P. 29. is, *That several Tradesmen came with their Bills for necessary Repairs of the Estate ; but the defam'd Ch—w—n, heading his Majority of the Trustees, would only pay one of the Tradesmen half his Bill, and the others not a Farthing, tho' there was Money more than sufficient to satisfy them all : yet, at last, he was so far overcome by Reproach and Shame, that he did agree to discharge the intire Bill of one Tradesman, tho' the rest received nothing at all.* What a monstrous and wicked Representation of Facts is this ! The Truth was punctually and exactly as follows. The total Rent of the Estate was £. 82 : 1 : 5 ; the Disbursements in Taxes, Repairs, &c. were £. 19 : 19 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$; consequently the Cash to ballance was £. 62 : 1 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Articles of Repairs, mentioned in the List of Disbursements, were what had been ordered by the Trustees during the Course of their own Year, and all these they had taken Care to discharge. The Sum then remaining to be applied was £. 62 : 1 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. Now Mr. B——n's Estate has ever since the Time of the Decree been, every Farthing of it, applied

applied to the Repairs of the Church ; which had received from that Estate, the nine Years preceding, upon an Average one Year with another, the Sum of £. 42 : 6 : 3. yearly ; A Sum also, near £. 35, was, in one of these Years, applied to the Church Repairs out of *M—s*'s Estate : This in Course has lessened the Church Rate during that Time. But the *V---r*, and former *Ch---w---ns* in their Time, justly suspecting the Town would, e're long, exert themselves in the Choice of *Ch—w—ns*, had purposely taken Care to keep back a great Debt of Tradesmens Bills, which ought to have been discharged, each Year, out of its own Revenues. These were the Bills produced to the new Trustees at the Application in *January* 1748. It is very observable that the Workmen, who now produced these Bills, sat still and saw the new *Ch--w--ns* doing Repairs, &c. at the Church, and, as they very well knew, presuming upon the usual Supplies for the Payment of the Workmen, &c. and never, in all that Time, acquainted them that they had any Bills to offer which were yet unpaid. It was on the 20th of *October*, after all the Work intended was finished, that the defam'd *Ch-w-ns* first heard of these Bills for Repairs done at *B---n's* Estate ; Bills due in Consequence of what former Trustees had ordered, but had not discharged. Nothing therefore can be more plain than that the Workmen were in the Confederacy ; and the Scheme evidently was, either to disgrace the *Ch--w--ns* by forcing them to make a higher Rate than usual, or to give them an ill Name in the Town from a studied Clamour of Workmen. Notwithstanding the unexpected Nature of this Demand, and all other Considerations against them, they did, however, pay out of *Mr. B---n's* clear Cash of their Year £. 23 : 18 : 6 $\frac{3}{4}$, which, upon calculating, they found was the most that it was possible for them to spare from the *Ch—h* Rate ; and yet, not one Farthing could be legally demanded of them. This uncommon Act of Good Nature plainly enough shewed their friendly Intentions.

After this, the Remainder of the Sum to be applied, after Deduction of the £. 23 : 18 : 6 $\frac{3}{4}$, being £. 38 : 3 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, was ordered to remain in the Hands of the *R--v--r*, not, as the Libeller says, *till their Mightinesses Pleasure was further known* ; No, an Order of particular Application was then agreed upon, and was read to the Parishioners, and signed by the Trustees, that the Money should remain in the *R--v--r's* Hands, untill the passing of the *Ch--w--ns* Accounts ;

counts ; and that it should then be applied in Aid of that Assessment. The R---v---r did accordingly pay this £. 38 : 3 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to one of the Ch--w--ns, and that Sum the Ch--w--ns charged themselves with, and honestly accounted for.

The Libeller says there was Money on the Account-Day of B--n's Estate, *more than sufficient* to pay all the Bills. Why then did not the Trustees pay them off the Year before ? These Bills were then subsisting ; the Libeller acknowledges they had been *long* due ; and the Cash then applied to the Church was £. 42 : 19 : 0, a larger Sum than that which was applied to the Church by the defamed Trustees ; and on the Account-Day of the Year preceding that, above Fifty Pounds clear Cash was applied to the Church.

The Libel says, *that only one entire Bill was discharged, and that the other Tradesmen received nothing but insolent Words, in which Coin the defamed Ch-----n much abounded.* This is the Way in which that Man of Candour, as he has the Insolence in some Places to pretend to be, chuses to express himself ; this his Regard to Truth, which ought always to be sacred, but never so much so, as when the Character of another may be injured by a Deviation from it. But the Truth is, that notwithstanding all these Disadvantages, three of the Tradesmen received Money at that Account, whether in full Discharge, or only in Part of their Bills, we do not punctually remember. As to insolent Words, that is mere Invention ; the defamed Ch-----n is very well known not to deal in that Coin, and the whole Town also knows there is no better nor readier Paymasters ny where than that Family.

But it is agreeable to Reason, as well as to Law, that the Trustees ought every Year, before the Account-Day, to discharge all the Bills which they shall have contracted. This is likewise apparent from the very Sense and Expressions of the Decree. Mr. M---s also, whose Estate, as well as B---n's, has been thus incumbered with Tradesmens Bills, provides in his Deed of Ordinances, (Donation Book P. 15, 16.) that Forty Pounds, if it might be conveniently spared, should be laid up in the Chest for the Purpose of answering accidental Charges ; such are, building upon and repairing the Estate, and defending the Title. This Sum appears to have been, at that Time, near a full Year's Value of the Estate ; for in that Deed it is called no more than Forty
Two

Two Pounds Eight Shillings and Four Pence. What may we, therefore, conclude would have been the worthy Founder's Opinion of such Managers, who should wilfully and industriously endeavour to burden his Estate with Debts? An Estate ought first to discharge its own Necessities, before it can afford any Surplus to other Occasions; nor can any Ballance of Cash be regularly stated and applied, while any Workmens Bills remain undischarged. This cannot but be allowed, as soon as advanced. But who are so proper Judges of what is to be paid as those Trustees who ordered the Work? Succeeding Trustees are intire Strangers to the Matter, and may be much imposed on. Besides, the Non-payment of Bills, and keeping them on Foot, may be attended with other bad Consequences. If the Workmen can legally demand Twenty or Fifty Pounds from succeeding Trustees, by the same Rule they may demand Five Hundred or a Thousand Pounds. Indeed, where shall we stop? May not the Estate, if we may use the Expression, be mortgaged to the full Worth by such shameful Means as these? 'Tis clear to the Eye of Law as well as Reason, that they can have no Demand upon the future Trustees, for they can be charged only by their own Contract; neither can the Workmen distrain, or have any other Remedy upon the Estate. Where then is their Remedy? It is against those who employed them; and 'tis most just that it should be so, because they should discharge their Bills before they pretend a Surplus. How unfair and unjust, therefore, has this Practice been of postponing necessary Payments, when there is Cash to pay, and pretending a Surplus? (Tradesmen, when they know they must wait, will charge accordingly.) But how shamefully, and doubly dishonest is it in the Libeller, to give this so foul a Representation of the Tradesmens Bills contracted by — the Libeller himself and his Majority.

THERE is a Story in P. 31. of the Libel, which one could scarce have thought would have been told. It is that of a Parishioner, Mr. *Tho. G—g* by Name; *without extolling whose Spirit*, the Libeller says, *he must not pass over the Proceedings of that Day of B—n's Account*. We shall heartily join with him in the Commendation of that Parishioner. He, not rightly understanding the Reason and Motives of the *Ch—w—ns*, said something by Way of Objection: That was enough for the *V—r*, who immediately catch'd at the Man, and publicly declared to the Parishioners, that he was a most fit Person to make a *Ch—w—n*: A Spirit of Wrangling and Opposi-
tion

fition was all he wanted, and he fancy'd he had discovered the Seeds of them here. He was accordingly one of the Three set up by the V—r in the next Contest, in which he spent many hundred Pounds to gain his Point: But this Parishioner did not at all come up to the V—r's Expectation of him; he had more Sense and Honesty than to be biassed against the true Interest of the Parish. This Parishioner has declared that the V—r had moved such Measures to him, as he would not concur in on any Account whatsoever; he was determined not to serve him, and in Pursuance of this Resolution, the first Vote, he was called upon to give in the Vestry, he gave against the V—r; upon which the Relation of the V—r before mentioned had the Insolence to give out, he should never be chose Ch—w—n again. Indeed this Parishioner, from some Reasons or other, conceived such Resentments, that upon the late Election for a M—r of P—t, tho' he was in a dying State, he declared he would go to Poll against the V—r's Interest, if he died upon the Spot; he was therefore carried in a Chair, he voted for Mr. Ch—n, and he died in about three Days after.

THE other Inhabitant mentioned in the same Page, as *a near Relation to the defamed Ch--w--n, and who is there said to have professed himself at Church so ashamed of his Proceedings upon B—n's Application, that he would not attend the Church-Meetings any more*, is meant of Mr. St—e, who married Mr. H—n's Sister. This Gentleman had never been used to go to Vestry-Meetings, but having engaged in the Struggle for chusing these Ch--w--ns, he did appear at them once or twice. The Meetings were in *January*, a cold Season, and he was then very infirm. This, however, is not all: we might, if we lov'd Severity as much as this Writer, enlarge upon the Subject not much to his Advantage. The Truth is, he had another very substantial Reason for his Dislike to attend these Meetings; this was the great Insolence of some outrageous and mannerless Persons, who were instructed to abuse the better Sort with very insolent Language. This Gentleman had always the highest Sense of Mr. H--n the Ch-w-n's Uprightness in general, and of his great Services to the Parish, and Merit in this Ch-w-n Contest; and he never utter'd a Word to his Disadvantage. The next Year, so far was he from being ashamed of the Conduct of the late Ch--w--ns, that he was very zealous for their being rechosen, and subscribed as handsomely as any other whatsoever to the Suit that was to support their Re-election.

We

WE have determined, for the sake of Clearness and full Conviction, to follow the Libeller Step by Step thro' his dirty Work. He passes on from the Application of Mr. B—n's, to that of the Surplus of Mr. M—s's Estate. The 7th of *January* is the Day appointed by the Decree, to state the Account of M—s's; and this was then done, and the Ballance due to public Uses of the Town, after Payment of Salaries, Taxes, Repairs, &c. appeared to be £. 51 : 17 : 4. The Workmen came on that Day to clamour with their Bills; but, according to the Decree, no Application is to be made upon the Account-Day of M—s's Estate: the Surplus is directed to be put into the Iron-Chest, and when it amounts to Twenty Pounds, then the T—n-Cl—k is to cause a public Notice to be given of a Meeting of the Trustees to order the Application of it. We confess it was a new Thing to the Parish, to have the Account and Application of M—s's Estate upon distinct Days: But the present Trustees, who were religious Observers of the Decree in every Instance, would not enter into the Consideration of any Application, otherwise than agreeably to the Directions of the L—d C — r. We can't forget the Behaviour of the Trustees the next Year, upon the Day of M—s's Account, who, contrary to the public Remonstrance of the defamed Ch—w—n, and the Example which had been set the Year before, would proceed as usual to apply the Surplus immediately upon stating the Ballance, utterly disregarding the Notice required in the Decree. The V—r, indeed, pleaded he was going out of Town, and could not stay for such a Notice; but this was a poor Excuse, and seem'd to imply, that the others were wholly insufficient without the Aid of this all-governing Trustee. And it is remarkable, that the Libeller even relates the Application of M—s's Surplus, as upon the 7th of *January*, tho' the true Day was upon the 16th, in Pursuance of the requisite Notice.

UPON the 16th, the Workmen returned with their *Bills*, of which the Libeller, in *P. 32.* charges the defamed Ch—n to have refused the Payment, but unable to maintain his Ground, he yielded, he says, at last to pay one Tradesman about a fourth Part of his Bill, and dismissed the others without a Farthing; alledging, that Money must be kept for the Payment of certain Iron Chests, which he had just ordered to be made in London. One of the Bills amounting to near Ten Pounds was dated so far back as the Year 1737; this was ten Years before the Time, and had been constantly dis-

disallowed by the Trustees, as never to be paid at all ; the late R--v--r being present particularly objected to the Payment of this Bill ; he asserted that nothing was due to the Man, if we remember right, after a just Ballance of some Accounts : But the Clamour now raised about paying Tradesmen, encouraged even this Person once more to offer this old Bill. Other Bills were produced for Work and Materials in the latter End of the Year 1746 ; these ought to have been paid, and accounted for by the former Trustees in *January* 1747, when they applied, as clear Cash, vastly more than the Amount of all these Bills. Another Bill was offered for Work and Materials ordered since the last Account-Day, and before the Choice of the new Ch—ns ; this was every Farthing of it allowed. Other Bills were produced which did not belong to this Application, being for the Repairs of another Estate. The last Sort of them was for Materials and Work done at the Grammar-School-House, all which was ordered, as we have before related, after the present Ch—w—ns were chosen in, and at a Time when those who ordered it knew there was no ready Cash ; nay, when former Bills were still unpaid for Repairs of the Estates both of *M—s* and *B—n*.

The Trustees, moreover, of the three great Estates, not the defamed Ch-w-n alone, as the Libeller would fain pretend, had ordered Iron Chests, in Obedience to the L—d-C—r's Decree, which were then not come from *London*. It was very just and very necessary for them to provide, in the Application, for the Payment of such Debts as themselves had contracted in the Execution of their Trust ; they were bound so to do by the Rules both of Prudence and Honesty. However, as in the Application of *B—n*'s, so in this of *M—s*, the Trustees calculated what could be spared, and generously paid one of the Workmen in Part, and this in the most disinterested Manner, as this very Workman had opposed the Election of the present Ch—w—ns with great Industry and Zeal. It is objected by the Author of the Libel, that a landed Tradesman, which is this very Man, offered to pay for the Chests upon their Arrival, if his Bill might be forthwith paid ; but, not to mention that his Bills amounted to almost double the Sum reserved for the Chests, the Trustees had been very unwise to have rely'd upon any such Engagement, and to have subjected themselves to a possible captious Dispute for recovering the Money,

Money, when they already had it safe in their own Possession, and accruing from the proper Fund for the raising it. It would have been silly indeed! to have paid this Workman his Bills, which they had not ordered, and to have trusted to his Honour to pay for the Iron Chests, which themselves had ordered, and were bound to pay for.

But to shew how necessary their Care was, to discharge their own Bills; When the Application of M—s returned the next Year, the Trustees of this Year having received Sixteen Shillings less than the Bill for the Chests amounted to, even the V—r, who had but lately so very much canted for the Tradesmen, and exclaimed against others, did now oppose the Payment of this Trifle, tho' it was the whole Debt left unpaid by the former Trustees on Account of their own Year; and this, indeed, no Ways intended: But the shrewd Landlord hinted at in the Preface to the Libel, who was then one of the Ch—w—ns, and was ashamed of the Thing, said, *Dr. Dr. it must be paid*; and upon this Man's powerful Intercession the mighty Boon was granted.

Would one imagine, however, that while this Cavil was rais'd against the Payment of so very inconsiderable a Part of a Debt, which was incurred in Obedience to the Decree of the L—d C—r, the whole antient Bill of 1737, which they had always pronounced bad, should be discharged without any Objection? But when we come to enquire into Causes, the Effects discover themselves very clearly. The Demand was made by a Brick-maker, who employ'd and could command about eight Voters; and there being some Prospect of a Vacancy, and a new Election for a M—r of P—t, which has lately happened, it was not the V—r's Business to dispute it.

WE come now to explain the Affair of the Iron Chests. The Libeller, to take off the Necessity of buying them, proceeds in his wonted Manner, *How must the Wonder and Indignation of every honest Parishioner be encreased, when he shall be informed, that there was no Occasion at all to buy new Iron Chests, there being then a very capacious old one, well hooped with Iron, with proper Locks and Keys for every Trustee, already prepared in the Vestry Room, which with a small Expence might have been contrived to answer all the Purposes of the Decree; that it was judged to be so strong, that one of the Trustees, against whose Security no Exceptions could be taken, publicly offered to be answerable for any Sums which might be deposited in it. But says the Libeller, that did not suit with the Designs of this*

Ch—w—n,

Ch--w--n, who ordered twenty-four Pound, besides other Expenses, to be paid for one small Chest to the Tradesman, whom he employed to procure it; tho' the same Person had offered to one of the Trustees to provide three new strong Iron Chests, with good Locks and Keys for every Trustee, and to fasten them securely in the Ground for fourteen Pound. He then concludes with a shrewd Suspicion that the Man was intended to be purchased as well as the Chest. The Reader will find this Representation of the Iron Chests very suitable to the Author's Character, and to his Work, and of a Piece with all his other Representations of Facts.

The L--d Ch--r has decreed, that the three Estates should each have an Iron Chest, in which should be deposited the Account Book, Money, Counterparts of Leases, Vouchers, &c. relative to each; except the Account of P--t's, that Account being to be delivered to the Ch--w--ns, and by them to be entered in the Parish Books. Yet, notwithstanding this was so plain and so reasonable an Injunction, the V--r and former Trustees had totally neglected it; No Iron Chests were ever provided, nor indeed were Chests of any Sort made Use of, from the Time of the Decree until the Entry of the reforming Ch--w--ns into Office. It was a great Hardship upon these Ch--w--ns to provide that out of the Stock of their particular Year, which ought to have been ordered and paid for many Years before. But it was high Time the Chests should be had; and they could not satisfy themselves not to procure them agreeably to the manifest Words and Design of the Decree; they would not exercise their Trust in a constant and voluntary Breach of it.

M--s's Chest was to have three Locks and Keys for the M--r, V--r, and Head Ch--w--n chosen by the Town; *B--n's* three for the M--r, V--r and R--v--r; and *P--t's* four for the M--y r, V--r, and two Commoners; and all the Chests were to be placed in the Church, viz. in the Treasury House within the Vestry. The Trustees of all the several Estates spoke one with the other on this Subject; and it was agreed by them to have the three Chests, not kept separate, but all of them together in one larger Chest, with Divisions into three Parts, and each Part to have its own Lid, with the proper Locks: Accordingly it was so made, with one common Lid to cover the three Lids underneath, which, besides the greater Security, was a saving of some Money to the Estates.

The three Chests were computed at 24 Pounds, that is, eight Pounds a Chest: Sixteen Pounds was reserved upon

the Application Day of *M--s* to pay for the Chest of *M--s* and *B--n*, which happened to fall short of the Price by as many Shillings, and this little Sum (as we have observed) was very hardly obtained from the Trustees of the next Year. The defamed *Ch--w--n* was at the Pains to enquire in *London* at several Shops, and he there saw some Iron Chests, by which, and the Prices set on them, he knew the Agreement afterwards made with a very honest and reputable Tradesman of *N---* was fair and reasonable. The *N---* Tradesman bespoke the Chests of a Chest-maker in *London*, and, tho' it has been thus insinuated that he was to be bought as well as the Chest, he had but one Guinea, and no more for his Trouble; this was but a small Sum to purchase so wealthy a Tradesman as he is known to be.

The *V--r* sent for this same Tradesman to know the very lowest Price an Iron Chest for *B--n's* Estate could be had for, at the same Time shewing him a Book for the Depth and Width of it; the Tradesman told him, that Size would cost about four Pounds. He was then desired by the *V--r* to wait upon the *M--y--r* for his Consent, who with the *V--r* are the only Trustees of *B--n's* Estate in Case they agree. But the *M--y--r's* Answer, that he would talk with the other Trustees, much displeased the *V--r*; who then imagining the Trustees to have a Design of using the Wooden Chest hooped with Iron, declared they should not have it, for they should provide Iron Chests, he said, according to the Decree. But the *V--r* afterwards finding the Trustees had given Orders for Iron Chests of the Value of eight Pounds each, sent again for this Tradesman, and reminded him, in Presence of another Person, that he had said an Iron Chest might be provided for four Pounds. Then, argues he, three Chests may be had for twelve Pounds. But the Tradesman mentioning Locks, the *V--r* thought two Shillings a Piece was a good and sufficient Price for them; so that with the Locks and incidental Charges, he computed the three Chests might be had for about fourteen Pounds. But the Tradesman, when he agreed with the Trustees, told them, those low priced Chests were such as were kept ready made for Sale, and were very slight, being of thin rolled Plate Iron; he added, that they were so light, that a Boy might easily carry 'em off; and that one Blow of a Hammer would make strike thro' 'em. He says, if they should be fastened into the Ground of the Treasury Floor, the Rust must eat them through in a few Years; and finally, that these Locks of two Shillings each might be opened with a crooked Nail.

The

The Vestry Chest hooped with Iron, spoken of by the Author of the Libel, is very old ; it has three Locks and no more, and is the Parish Chest, such as all Parishes are bound to have : They had not, nor could have, any Thoughts of using it for any of the public Estates ; it was neither intended for such a Purpose, nor fit for it. But had it been at full Liberty, they would not have used it ; the Decree orders Iron Chests, betwixt which and wooden Chests hooped with Iron there is a wide Difference. How easily might a Thief, knowing Money to be publickly deposited in the latter, saw or chisel them betwixt the Iron Hoops, and draw out the Money ? Known Treasure in a wide empty Church ought to be securely lodged. Accordingly the Trustees of the several Estates did all in Conjunction, and not any one of them separately, order the three Chests, being all to be deposited in the same Place, to be formed into one larger Chest, divided into three Parts : This Chest is many Hundred Weight, which secures it from being removed : The Bundle in the Fable was stronger than each single Stick. It is well known in the Parish to be a very strong and neat Chest, of hammered Iron, framed, pannelled and painted ; but being made in one, though it be divided into three Partitions, and has three several Lids, the Libeller calls it *one small Chest for twenty-four Pounds, besides other Expences*. Such is his Way of representing Facts.

The Trustees therefore were acting up to their Duty in providing Iron Chests, and in taking Care to reserve the Money to pay for them ; but 'tis plain it was never intended by the preceding Trustees to use Iron, or, indeed, any Chests at all, not only from their Opposition and wicked Clamour, but also from another Circumstance : The Account-Book of *M——s* is to be deposited in his Chest, and that of *B--n's* in *B--n's* Chest ; but they had all along kept the Accompts of both Estates intermixed in one and the same Book.

WE shall here take Notice of a Charge in P. 47 of the Libel relating to these Iron Chests, in which the Author wou'd fix the Crimes of others upon the defam'd Ch---n and his Family : His Effrontery, as well as his Wickedness, is indeed amazing. He objects, on this Occasion, a Breach of the Decree, which, he says, orders the Rents of *B--n's* Estate, and the Book of public Accounts, to be deposited in an Iron Chest ; and the Rents also of *M--s's* to be put into an Iron Chest. The Reason has just appeared why no mention is made of an Account-Book to be put into the

Chest with *M—s's* Rent. We believe, as it is there stated, that, on the Account-Days, the *Re—v—r* of these Estates was publickly called upon by two of the Trustees, that is, the *V—r* and his *Ch—w—n*, to conform himself to the Decree, by depositing the Money in the Chest: But this Man, says he, meaning the *Ch—w—n*, publickly in the Church, perswaded the *R—v—r* to keep the Money, and the Book also, in his own Hands. It is most likely that he did; and the Reader, we think, must commend the Prudence of his Advice. It was then impossible to observe the Decree, no Iron Chests having been provided in Obedience to it by the former Trustees: The Libeller in P. 32. allows that Iron Chests were then making in *London*, by Order of the very Trustees whom he would defame; and he acknowledges that they did not come down till seven or eight Months afterwards. The *V—r* then makes not any Distinction betwixt Iron Chests and the Parish Chest of Wood; but, it seems, the other Trustees, as well as the *L—d C—r*, thought the Difference very material between Wood and Iron. The Decree also requires, that each Estate shall have its own Chest, and not one Chest in common one with another. The Trustees, as they could not possibly conform themselves to his Lordship's Decree, chose to trust the *R—v—r* Mr. *Cl—b*, known to be a very honest and responsible Gentleman, rather than a Chest of Wood; or indeed, than the Trustee, who, it is said in P. 33, offered to be answerable for any Sums which might be deposited in that Chest, and whose vast Security is pos'd in more Places than one in the Libel. The *R—v—r*, indeed, might possibly require some Persuasion; for he could neither want, nor desire to be any Body's Cash-keeper. The *V—r* and former Trustees were the Persons to be accused, who had never used, nor intended to have used, any Chest at all: There are several Instances, in the Book of Public Accounts, of Orders sign'd by the *V—r*, in which the *R—v—r* is directed to keep and continue the Money in his own Hands, till further Orders; and there it has remained from one Year's Account Day to the next. It was in Consequence of their Neglect in not providing the Iron Chests, that the Trustees could not now conform themselves to the Decree. How vile and base, therefore, is it to reproach these Gentlemen for a Contempt of the Decree, when, at this very Time, and in their first Year, they were obeying it by providing the Iron Chests?

C H A P. VII.

The Charges answered, which relate to the Office Copy of the V---ge Endowment, and the Opinion concerning the Chancel Repairs; wherein the Disinterestedness of the defam'd Family is clearly shewn.

THE Libeller closes the History of M—s's Application with a Law Bill, which he observes in P. 33 was discharged without any Hesitation. *It was, says he, brought indeed by the Ch—w—n's Br—r for an Opinion said to be taken, (tho' he refused to produce it) about commencing a Law Suit against the Impropiator of N——, in Relation to the Chancel, which the Ch—w—n would have others believe, ought to be repaired by him, tho' it had been Time out of Mind maintained by the Parish.* He therefore resolves the whole into a Scheme to employ the Ch—w—n's two Br---rs in a Suit, the one being an Attorney at N—, and the other of the same Profession in London. In P. 36. he remarks on another Article of the same Bill, in which a Sum of Money is charged to be paid for a Copy of the V--r--ge Endowment, with the Proctor's Fee; *But, says the Libeller, the Br--r of the Ch--w--n refused to produce either the Copy, or the Proctor's Receipt for the Money. The Copy, indeed, he acknowledges, tho' without a Date, was sent to one of the Trustees, a Month or two after the Ch--w--n was out of Office; but a Sight of the Proctor's Receipt had been constantly denied.* This very execrable and studied Misrepresentation we shall clearly shew to be a Sin against Knowledge, as much as any of the former Charges; and that the defamed C--w--n was not projecting a Family Interest, but a general Good to the Parish.

Soon after the new Ch--w--ns had entered into their Office, they viewed the Church and Chancel, in Presence of several Parishioners, to see in what State they were. It was observed that the Gutters upon the Chancel Leads were out of Repair, and that four Sheets of the Lead must be taken up and new cast; and, as these Repairs had been usually done by the Parish, the Ch--w--ns were about to give the necessary Directions. But an Objection was started by one of the Ch--w--ns, and this was not him who is principally defamed, that in other Places the Chancel was used to be maintained by the Parson, or Impropiator, and not at

the Expence of the Parish: This put a Stop to the intended Reparation for the present, that the Matter might be first duly considered. It had been a Breach of Duty, and an Exaggeration of Authority, to have disregarded the Objection. The Trustees therefore of *M——s*'s Estate (one of whom was the *V—r*'s Ch--w--n, himself being then absent from the Parish), authorized the *T--n-Cl--k*, who is the Ch——n's Br—r, to send for a Copy of the *V--r*-ge Endowment, which was thought necessary to be seen, and then to state a Case, and take the Opinion of some eminent Civilian; and they engaged to pay for it out of that Estate.

By the Ordination of Endowment, it appeared that the Chancel Repairs are there expressly laid for ever upon the Appropriators, then the Prior and Covent of *St. Catharine's*, without the Walls of *L-nc-n*; whose Estate is now owned by the Impropiator. A very particular and long Case, with many necessary and proper Queries, was sent up to *Dr. L——* in *London*; and he gave a clear Opinion, that the Custom hitherto observed in our Parish, of repairing the Chancel at the Parish Expence, could not have a legal and reasonable Commencement, nor could be supported, being contrary not only to the general Law, but also to the exprefs Words of the Ordination.

The Libeller's Suggestion of a Law Scheme is a very weak Pretence on this Occasion; because the only Method of Compulsion is very well known to be in the spiritual Court, to which the Practisers of Common-Law have no Relation: Nor, indeed, was any Suit ever proposed in the Vestry, or elsewhere; it was believed an Application to the Impropiator would have set all right. The Ch—w—ns, therefore, wrote to the Impropiator, and receiving no Answer, they, after a Month or two, wrote again. This second Letter of theirs produced an Answer from his Solicitor *Mr. B st-we*, "That if the Impropiator did not come down from *London* with him, he would leave it to him to give "Directions for doing what he ought to do, on a proper "Enquiry into the Affair." Could an Answer be expected framed in more favourable Words? This Matter was, therefore, in a hopeful Way of Accommodation; but the Year of the Ch--w--ns expiring, and their Re-election being contested by the *V—r*, a Stop was put to all further Treaty about the Chancel.

The *T-n-Cl-k*, it is very true, did not produce *Dr. L—*'s Opinion upon the Account-Day: He then had it not; having

having before delivered that, and the Office Copy of the Endowment, to the Trustees. Some little Time after this, the V—r sent for this Opinion from the defamed Ch—w—n, who refused to give it, without the Consent of the Trustees that had ordered it to be taken and paid for; the main Obstacle to the sending it, was the Opposition which had been given by the V—r to this Regulation. But when the V—r had got his own People again into the Ch—w—ns Office, the Opinion, with the V—r—ge Endowment, was then delivered to him by one of the former Ch—w—ns. Misrepresentation, is the great Aim of this Writer, and, indeed, is the only Source he could find of saying any Thing that could but have the Appearance of being in his Favour; 'tis plain he would draw the Reader, by this Method, to believe the Opinion was never taken. He first says the T--n-Cl--k, tho' called upon by two of the Trustees, refused to produce it; and afterwards, when he acknowledges the Endowment Copy was sent to one of the Trustees, he says nothing at all of the Opinion, tho' it was also carried to the same Trustee, (that is the V--r), at the same time with the Copy.

The Charge of the T--n-Cl--k's Refusal to produce the Proctor's Receipt, we believe to be mere Invention; we remember he was asked the Proctor's Name who was wrote to for the Copy, which he told them, but we cannot recollect that he was desired to produce the Proctor's Receipt. It is very unusual to require from an Attorney a Sight of his Agents Receipt; it would be an Indignity to ask it. The Libeller's View, in observing the Endowment Copy to be without a Date, is artfully to insinuate that it was not taken when the Bill was produced. But to this we answer, That the Date is not at all material to the Officer's Attestation; and we therefore believe it is the Practice to omit it. But tho' the Copy be not dated, yet the Case, with which the Copy was sent to Dr. L--, is dated; for the learned Civilian has subscribed under his Opinion the Day and Month, which appears to be several Weeks before the 16th of *January*, when this Bill was delivered. The V--r--ge Endowment was a necessary Light, the very Merits of the Case depending wholly upon it; one would have imagined it more easy to observe that the Opinion *was* dated, than that the Officers Attestation of the Copy *was not*; but he is not inclin'd, any where, to tell Truths that may serve any body but himself. Also the

Proctor's Letter, inclosing that Copy, is now to be produced, and is dated in the *July* preceding.

If the V—r pleases to shew the Case, it would, we believe, do a Credit to the T—n Cl—k and Ch—w—ns; however, the latter took an attested Copy, it seems, of the Case and Opinion, and of the Office Copy of Endowment, before they were given up to the V—r.

But let us now cast our Eye upon the T—n Cl—k's Bill; and we shall find that there never was a more generous or fair one delivered; he has charged nothing in it but what he was immediately out of Pocket. It may be supposed by some, that such a thing might not be observed by this wicked Defamer of those whom he knows to deserve Praise, but the Circumstances of that Bill make it impossible. The following Articles were set down in the Bill, and cyphered up, without Figures, *viz.* The T—n Cl—k's Fee for sending to Y—k for the Endowment; drawing a long Case and fair Copy thereof; the Agent, (his B—r's), attending Dr. L— in *London* with the Case, and afterwards for the Opinion: The Sense and plain Meaning of this is, that the defamed Family cheerfully served the Parish, and had not nor desired one Farthing for their Trouble; Nor is this particular in this one Case, but has been their usual Method. Yet a Family so disinterested, and extremely generous upon every Occasion, must be wickedly represented by this Author, contrary to his own Knowledge, to be as narrow and fordid as they are known to be generous and disinterested; but, say he what he will, Facts speak for them. The Office Copy of Endowment and the Proctor's Fee are charged in the T—n Cl—k's Bill one Pound one Shilling and seven Pence, which is the very Sum charged to the T—n Cl—k, and paid by him to Mr. Sh—w the Proctor at Y—k.

But as the Libeller in the Story of the Iron Chests would have persuaded the Reader there was no Occasion to buy any, so in this Affair of the Chancel he would charge the Trustees with Misapplication, in ordering the T—n Cl—k's Bill to be paid out of M——s's Estate. He spends a Page or two in arguing this knotty Point; and, to give some Importance to his Subject, he creates out of his own Brain the Scheme of a future expensive Law-Suit, which he supposes was intended also to be paid for by the same Estate. To this Purpose he cites a Part of the Decree, that the Money shall be applied *in repairing or beautifying the Church, or some other good Work or Works for the Common Weal of the Town, as the Trustees shall think most necessary and convenient,*
and

and most agreeable to the Donation and Intention of the said M——s. He then endeavours to prove his Argument by distinguishing, that the Money expended in the Law-Bill, or to be expended in the projected Suit, was not an Application of it in a Good Work. The Decree does in this Case expressly refer to the Intention of the Donor; we must therefore look into his Deed of Foundation, to know what that Intention was. He there orders his *Surplus to be applied to the Churchworks, or to the Common Weal, or to any other good Use for the Common Weal of the Town, as should be thought necessary by the Trustees*. To state the present Case fairly from this Period: A Question arises, whether the Impropiator or the Parish ought to repair the Chancel? And it was found necessary to consult some eminent Opinion for the Ch-w-n's Direction in this Case. The Parish had time immemorial repaired this Part of the Church; but, as it was now conceived that this had been done in their own Wrong, the Trustees order an Opinion to be taken at the Charge of the Estate, and it is given clearly in Favour of the Parish. A Man must want Eyes not to see that this Money was expended *for a good Use and for the Common Weal of the Town*. But this Libeller is in this, as well as in all other Cases, where Facts and Reason are against him, of the Number of those whom our homely Proverb observes to be most blind of all, those who will not suffer themselves to see what every Body else does. If the Chancel Repairs were done by the Impropiator, whose Estate we apprehend to be bound by the Law to do them, it would save so much Money to the Parish, or rather to this very Estate of M——s, out of which the Libeller owns it is now repaired.

It is said in the Libel, *Had one of the Trustees been consulted by him (that is, by the defamed Ch-w-n) as he ought to have been, we are persuaded he could have informed him, without putting the Parish to any Expence, that, though the Rector or Impropiator is bound by the general Custom of England to repair the Chancel, yet, if the Custom hath been for the Parish to repair it, that Custom is in that Place the Law*. This knowing Trustee, Reader, must be the V-r himself; for his Ch-w-n, and all the other Trustees, except himself, were consulted; and he had been consulted too, but that he was not then in the Parish. The Libeller, we observe, says not a Word here of the Ordination of Endowment, which fixes the Repairs for ever upon the Appropriator, and was well known to be the great Merits of this Question.

Question. But the Ch--w--ns could not any where have better Information for their Conduct, than the great and eminent Opinion which they took.

We have Reason to believe the Simile of the Mountebank in Page 3. of the Libel was taken from this very Affair. For the next Year, when the V--r was triumphing in the Vestry, and backed by his own Ch--w--ns, he wanted to bring again on the Stage this Chancel Opinion. He was so elate with the Thoughts of Success, that he mounted upon the Table in his Pontificalibus, held up the T--n Cl--k's Bill in his Hand, and displayed it as a Mountebank does his Remedies for Corns and Agues; he harangued the Multitude a considerable Time; to use the Words of the Libel in Page 74, speaking of the Figure, which the much defamed Ch--w--n had made in this very Place, *He then made such a Figure, as no Man before him ever did.* How laudable soever the thing really was; notwithstanding he had long had the Case and the Opinion in his Possession, and though the T--n Cl--k's Generosity, which was sufficiently apparent in his very Bill, stared him all the while in the Face, he blackened it with all his Art and Skill, and represented it in the Manner in which it is set forth in the Libel. The defamed Ch--w--n, his F——r and B——, this notable Triumvirate, as they are called in the Libel, who were all there, would have answered the Charge; but the shrewd Fellow mentioned in the Libeller's Preface, with other Creatures, made such an outrageous Noise and Shouting upon their offering to speak, that (as notable as they were) they could not be heard a Syllable; the Matter was therefore answered to the Parishioners by Degrees, as they had Opportunity, and proved to their entire Satisfaction. This Practice of Noise and Riot has been since used on many Occasions to keep Truth at a Distance, and to weary out honest People from coming to the Parish Meetings.

The Reader may possibly ask, what could induce the V--r to take such mighty Pains, as he did on this Occasion, against the Rights of the Parish, which he is ever professing to vindicate and support? It is to be known then, that besides the grand Scheme of calumniating and opposing the worthy Ch--w--ns, the V--r has a private Interest in keeping the Repairs of the Chancel where they now are. He has at present more Command of the Chancel than of the Body of the Church, though the latter is his Freehold, and the former is not his, but the Impropiator's. The V--rs take for each Burial in the Chancel forty Shillings, which
really

really belongs to the Impropiator : It is probable, that at what Time the Repairs were shifted off from themselves, the Impropiators were glad to quit this Fee ; they could never be safe while they took it ; but if the Chancel should be again repaired by the Impropiator, doubtless he would then vindicate his own Rights ; and consequently the V--r must lose those Fees, and cease to have any Power in that Part of the Church.

BUT to shew how extremely malicious and ill grounded the Libeller's Insinuation is of a Law-Suit projected by the defamed Family ; which, he says, is a present and certain Evil, and good only for this Family, who were to swallow up, in the Prosecution of it, the Profits of Mr. M--s's Estate ; such is his Charge : We think necessary to take Notice, once for all, of the great Generosity of this very Family in declining Suits. We need not repeat the disinterested Manner in which Mr. H--n undertook the Suit for the Recovery of the Trust Estates to Parish Uses, and the large Contributions of the Family towards it.

About eight Years ago, some Time after the former Suit was determined, the R--d applied to Mr. H--n, to file a fresh Bill against the M--r and Ald--m--n for some After-Accounts : This was to be carried on in a much more advantageous Manner for Mr. H--n than the former Suit ; it was to be at the sole Expence of the R--d, who was then become very wealthy by the Acquisition of a great Fortune. Mr. H--n, notwithstanding, advised him against this Suit, for that it would appear very cruel to prosecute the Corporation again, after such large Estates had been recovered from their Hands for the Parish Use, and they had been even stripped and greatly reduced in their Corporate Capacity, by the Success of the former Suit ; that the Relators had suffered the Bill to be dismissed in Respect to all other Estates, except the three greater Charities ; and upon the Decree had waved all Accounts against them ; It might provoke L--d Ch--r, who would consider any such trifling Cause to be a real Persecution, and might even induce him to alter the Powers he had already appointed, (for the former Cause was still retained in Court, so that any Alterations might be made, if needful). Mr. H--n for these Reasons desired to be excused, and actually refused him to be concerned in the Cause. What ! says the R--d upon this, you have some View ; but Mr. H--n replied he had no Views all ; it was for the mere Cruelty of the Attempt, that he could not approve of any further Suit. The Reader ought to know, that at this time
Mr.

Mr. T—lls was the T—n Cl—k, who then had a Son bringing up in the Profession, and both were at that time in good Health, tho' they are since dead. Mr. H—n could have no more Views to restrain him from undertaking this Cause than the former, but much more to engage him, if Sordidness and Profit could have induced him. This Refusal threw cold Water upon the new intended Cause for some time ; but at length the V—r employed another Attorney of the Town, who undertook it, and filed a Bill against the Corporation.

This is the second Suit mentioned in Page 57 of the Libel. It is there pompously spoken of, as what might, perhaps, raise Envy in the defamed Family, if the Author *should proceed to relate the extraordinary Pains, and very large Expences, which Dr. W—n, singly, without receiving any Contributions from others (tho' Subscriptions had been generously set on foot) took upon himself in this Suit, which he commenced against the Corporation, in order (as it is pretended) to procure the regular Application of certain Rents due to the Town and particularly to the Poor, by which Means he caused several Sums of Money to be distributed amongst them, which before had been withheld.* After this pompous Declaration of the Intent and End, as well as of the Disinterestedness and Generosity in the Prosecution of it, it will be proper to see what the Event of this Cause, which Mr. H—n refused to be concerned in, was. The true Motive of the V—r's commencing it, we believe, was what neither Mr. H—n, nor his new Attorney could divine ; It was scarce possible for any Body to have penetrated into such a Depth ; it is evident to a Demonstration, that, with all this Pomp and Pretence, he never really intended to carry the Cause on : Yet great Hopes of something, they knew not what, were raised in the People ; the M—r and Al—m-n were, no doubt, intimidated by this new Ch—ry Proceeding ; they had seen the great Expences, and their ill Success in the former Cause ; nevertheless they appeared, and an Answer was prepared for them, which they were ready to put in. But now was the time for this politic V—r to play his intended Game ; He sent a Message to the M—r and Al—m-n, who were assembled, that if they would chuse for an Ald—m-n a Person whom he should recommend, he would be their very good Friend ; all should be Peace, and what fine things he would do : After some Consultation, they were glad the Expence was to end so, which was all they had feared ; they supposed he would recommend

the

the excellent Ch—w—n his St---d. But lo ! the Messenger presently opened, that it was the R——d himself. We are not to suppose any Body wished this, or would indeed have done it, if not intimidated into it ; but they knew what a disingenuous and dangerous Enemy he was ; and they determined at all Events to make him a Friend to their Body. Thus he became an Al—m-n, and thus ended this famous second Suit.

Had the V—r purposed to serve the Public, and foreseen any considerable Expençe, he would not have refused Contributions from others, if any such were offered ; the Credit of Subscriptions, and the saving of his Money would have weighed. But it was not convenient for him to accept Contributions ; his Scheme being purely to serve himself, he knew the bare filing the Bill would terrify the M—r and Al—m-n into a Compliance, and the Contributors must grumble, to be so jockeyed. To borrow the Words of the Libel, he effected *from their Apprehensions of an expensive Contest, what he could not carry by any other Means.* P. 58. *Forfeiting all Pretensions to the Honour by his Manner of acquiring it.* Page 75, in the Epitaph. The Distribution of Money amongst the Poor, said to have been before withheld, and to be a Consequence of this Suit, will be spoken of in a more proper Place.

Another Instance of a Cause arose, in which Mr. H--n the T--n Cl--k shewed a Behaviour very far from a greedy Desire of a Suit. One Mr. G--d--n thought he was wronged in respect of some Lands, which were enjoyed as Part of B- n's Trust Estate ; he was, therefore, determined to bring an Ejectment, and came to the T—n Cl--k to employ him in the Cause ; the T--n Cl--k was so far from taking Pleasure in the Cause, or promoting it, though Mr. G--d--n is a Gentleman of Fortune, and his particular Client, that he desired to be excused, and at the same time promised Mr. G--d--n he would not be employed against him. This Gentleman therefore carried on his Cause by another Attorney ; it was tried at the last Summer Assizes but one, and Mr. G--d--n had a Verdict. The Conduct of the T--n Cl--k in this is very evident ; he would not be concerned either against the Charity Estates, or against his Friend.

Another Dispute concerning Land arose at N-- in the same Street where Mr. H--n lives ; both Sides were very able to pay, and both went to the T--n Cl--k to employ him ; but, as both were his Neighbours, he declined being employed
for

for either. This Controversy produced two Causes, which were tried the last Spring Assizes.

We shall beg the Reader's Leave to introduce one Instance more of the real Disinterestedness of this Family ; and the rather, because it relates to a Person, against whom they are, in Page 24. of the Libel, charged to have betrayed the most evident Prejudice and Rancour, though an opposite Neighbour ; opposite enough, that is the Truth of it. We are to observe, that this Man, being endued with great Strength, is very apt to be over-forward in exercising his Fist ; and People have several times come to Mr. *H--n*'s to sue him for it ; there has come even very bloody ; but, he being a Neighbour, they not only declined suing him, but found Means to dissuade the insulted Persons from going to Law with him. Another Complaint arose, that he would not pay his Tythes ; the *T--n Cl--k* was employed to sue him on this Occasion, but he first went to persuade him to pay without Suit, and to convince him that Tyth had always been paid. He not prevailing, Mr. *H--n* the Father, though he had left off Business of Suit, yet, thinking his Neighbour might possibly hearken to his Persuasions, went to him, and clearly shewed him, that the Payment could not be withstood, and that such a Controversy might be very expensive. But his Answer was, " What need you care so much to prevent Suit ? Your Family will be the Gainers by it." No more could be said ; a Suit was commenced, and he afterwards submitted and paid the Charges. This Suit also had been probably declined, the Defendant being a Neighbour, but that it was for an honourable Person who could not be refused. These are late Instances ; it would be tedious to mention more : But all People who frequent Mr. *H--ns*'s Study, know his Practice ; and find him much advising and promoting Peace. These are the *Ravenous Wolves*, this the *Rapacious T--n Cl--k*.

C H A P. VIII.

The parochial Right of choosing three Ch--w--ns vindicated ; some extraordinary Misapplications of the Parish and Trust Moneys considered ; great Disorders of the Work-House rectified.

TH E Author whom we have undertaken to answer Step by Step as he goes on, hurries away from the Application of *M—s* and *B—n*, to give his Account of the next Election of Ch--w--ns : But tho' we propose to follow him, we think it pertinent to our Reply, not to be in such a mighty Haste ; we are willing, before we proceed to a new Election, to view the reforming Ch--w--ns in their Office ; and 'tis our Business to shew, that they fully answered the Expectation of their Electors, supported the very Existence of the due Number of Ch--w--ns, and exercised all the Parts of that Office with the exactest Justice and Frugality : They detected and reformed a Multitude of Misapplications and Abuses of Trust, hitherto unheard of and unprecedented ; and they also took into Consideration, and in Conjunction with the Overseers, regulated the disordered and confused State of the Work-house. But let us first explain, how they vindicated the Right of the Parish to choose three Ch--w--ns, and baffled a deep-laid Scheme of many Years, to deprive them of it.

TH E V—r had not only engrossed the whole Power of the Ch--w--ns into his own Hands, but he had also studied to lessen the Number of such of those Officers as were elected by the P--sh. The Ch--w--ns have been Four from Time immemorial, two of them the Senior, and two the Junior Ch--w--ns : The Juniors of the preceeding Year were continued in Office, and the second Year became the senior Ch--w--ns ; and to these were added two others, the Juniors. The V—r, according to the Practice of his Predecessors, did for many Years from his first Entry, nominate one of the Juniors of the preceding Year, to be his Ch--w--n. The V--rs, therefore, had not the least Power by Virtue of their Nomination ; it was a mere Form, being a Nomination of an Officer whom the Parish had chosen the Year before. But, after some Years, he deviated from the Usage, and now constantly nominates the same Person, a Relation, who professes to act upon Principle, according

to his Dictates who appoints him. No Parish has a greater Regard for the Office of their M-n-str; they did never attempt any thing against his newly-acquired Power; an absolute Nomination was not thought unreasonable, it agreed with the Custom of most Parishes. But Ambition is not to be satisfied, Gratifications always increase that Appetite. The R——d thought it hard that others should share with him a Power in the Ch—h, of which he was the V—r.

The Interest arising from the Ch—h, (not to mention the Trust-Estates), is not only considerable in itself, but has been very much increased. The Salaries of the Ringers, who are no less a Number than ten, have been gradually, within the Time of our present V—r, more than doubled. This was scarce known, or taken Notice by the Parish, before the Year of the abused Ch--w--ns; but it was first observed on their Perusal of the Ch--w--n Account-Book. There is also a Set of Probationers for Vacancies in the B--ll-Ch- mb-r, and many other Dependencies are likewise upon the Ch -h. There are Ch--h-Officers, whose Business it is to keep it clean; it is a large Fabrick, and employs also many Workmen in the Repairs; several Charities are given to be disposed of by the Ch--w--ns; they have likewise a Power in the placing of Parishioners in proper Seats, &c. Now it was agreeable to the Schemes of our R---d to secure this whole Power (as well as that of the Trust Estates) to himself in all Events. The Parish, it is true, through Complaisance or Indolence, might devolve upon him the intire Care of the Ch--ch; but such a delegated Power could not be expected to continue longer than it was exercised with Frugality and Moderation. If the Parish should be exasperated by Extravagance and Tyranny, it was foreseen that they might re-assume the Management of their Concerns, by attending at the Elections to choose proper and independent Officers. But a Scheme has been attempted to prevent a Possibility of Redress.

The Parishioners have, Time out of Mind, elected at least three of the Ch--w--ns, and if the V- r could reduce these three to one, it followed that he must consequently acquire the whole Power of this Office. The V- r's Ch--w--n would not join in any one Thing without the V--s Approbation; if the Ch-w--n chosen by the Parish should not concur in any Business, it must be delayed; the Ch--w--n of the next Year, perhaps, might be prevailed upon to consent. It is impossible that one Officer annually chosen, should be equal to the Schemes of another who is perpetual.

petual. To compass this End, the V--r has insisted that two of the Town's Ch--w--ns, viz. the Juniors, were not Ch--w--ns; He would allow them to be no other than S-d-m-n. This Notion had prevailed in the Parish for many Years before the Election of the defamed Ch--w--ns: The L--d Ch---r's Decree, which speaks of the four Ch--w--ns, did not efface it; the Contents thereof being little known or observed, until it was printed and dispersed by the Publisher of the Donation-Book: And, tho' these pretended S-d-m-n have been often called to sign the Trust Accounts, yet they were taught to believe that they had not any Power in the Ch---h. Mr. H--n, the Ch--w--n, who never attended at any Vestry or Meeting of the Parishioners, 'till he was put in Nomination for the Office, had supposed, with others, that two of the Ch--w--ns were in reality S-d-m-n. But Truth being sought after, was soon found. All the defamed Ch--w--ns exerted the full Powers of their Office, agreeably to the Oath which had been administered to them by the Ch---r of the D--c--fs.

This became a terrible Disappointment to the V--r; he would not acknowledge their Title; the V--r's Ch--w--n refused to act with any but Mr. H--n; nor would Mr. H--n act with that Ch--w--n, but in Conjunction with the others. The Workmen were sent for by the V--r and threatned; *What, says he, three or four Ch--w--ns! I will try it with Mr. H---n, I value not spending Two or Three Hundred Pounds with him.* But he insisted further, that the P---sh Officers interfered in his Power and Authority; that it was his Ch---h, and he the V--r of it; that nothing should be done there without his Consent; and that he would lock the Ch--h Doors both against the Workmen and Mr. H---n. At another Time, when Mr. H---n and one of his Colleagues were giving Directions to repair a Window in the Ch---h, the V--r's Ch--w--n came up to them; he forbid that Colleague in positive Terms from meddling; and told him, that if he proceeded the Dr. would put him into Doctors Commons; and moreover said, that neither Mr. H--n, nor the other, should have the Keys of the Ch--h. Notwithstanding which Menaces, they procured Keys to be made, and conscientiously discharged that and all other Branches of their Office.

But the Book of Ch--w--n Accompts coming into the Hands of the defamed Ch--w--ns towards the Close of their Year, they were now more than ever astonished at this Attempt against the Liberties of the Parish. The Accompts

begin in the Year 1627 ; from this Time to 1725 it appears by every Years Accompt, if we except 1662 and 1697, that the Parish had, in reality, four Ch--w--ns. In the Year 1662 only two Ch--w--ns, and in the Year 1697 three Ch--w--ns pass that Accompt: But it is most probable that the usual Number was chosen, and that such who did not then appear, were either dead or prevented from attending by Illness or some other Cause. It is very observable, that the Accompt at *Easter* 1725 is the first which calls two of the Accountants S-d-m-n ; whereas in the preceding Accompts all four are called Ch--w--ns. This was a very material Alteration ; it continued thus Seven Years, when these Ch--w--ns were again struck at. Doubtless, it appeared very absurd that S-d-m-n should join with Ch--w--ns in passing the Ch--w--n Accompt ; these pretended S--d-m-n, therefore, **were** totally expelled out of the P--sh Book. Both these Changes have been introduced since the Time of our present V--r.

It was never the Conduct of the reforming Ch--w--ns to fish for Controversy and Suits. We agree with the Libeller, that tho' they may sometimes be necessary, yet they are always *Evils*, and are to be avoided, if it be possible. They frequently arise from a Misapprehension of Facts. The Ch--w--ns, therefore, published a small Pamphlet, to demonstrate that the Juniors were not S-d-m-n, but Ch--w--ns. They cited many important Entries from the P--sh Books ; they produced Testimonies from Inscriptions in the Ch--h ; they observed that public Notice had ever been given to chuse Ch--w--ns ; and that neither in the Notice, nor at the Election, had the Name of S-d-m-n been ever used. They pointed out such Parts of the Ch--w--n Office as have always been exercised by the Juniors ; they shewed that the former V--rs from time to time, and even the present, had taken the Accompts of the four Ch--w--ns, &c. This Vindication of the parochial Right was no sooner dispersed, than the Opinion even of the most obstinate seemed to vanish ; and since that Publication, all the four Officers have known their real Importance ; even the V--r himself appears, at length, to be fully convinced, and has entirely given up this Dispute. A Suit was commenced some few Months after in the Ec-cl-si-st-c-l C--t, concerning the Election of the next Year's Officers ; which Suit is afterwards mentioned in the Libel. Now the V--r, being a Party to that Suit, expressly alledges, that the three whom he had espoused were elected Ch--w--ns by the Parishio-

ners,

ners, and prays to have them sworn into that Office; for the Truth of which, we refer the Parishioners to the public Acts and Entries of that C—t.

We remember, that in the Year of the reforming Ch--w--ns, it was said by some, that tho' the L--d Ch---r's Decree has vested a Power in four Ch--w--ns, yet that Decree could not constitute them such; and that, whether they were Ch--w--ns or not, must depend upon the Custom of the Parish. We may reasonably conclude, that his L-dsh--p had satisfactory Evidence of their Title; they were admitted into the Trust, because they were Ch--w--ns; his L--dsh--p's Decree observed the Regulations of the Donors. Add to this, that the present V—r was also a Party to this Ch—ry Suit: but we may perceive from hence what was ultimately intended. If the V--r could have carried his Point of reducing two of the Ch--w--ns into S--d-m-n, our most useful and valuable Decree had likewise been unhinged, and nothing could have been introduced amongst us but Disorder and Confusion. This important Service of the defamed Ch--w--ns, had been alone sufficient to have merited the Approbation and Thanks of their Fellow-Parishioners: For *we cannot help saying* (to apply the very Words of the Libel, P. 58.) *that, if the Liberties of the Inhabitants in their Election of Parish-Officers, had not been vindicated at that critical Juncture, the public Benefactions themselves, for which they are the Trustees, must in all Probability have sunk together with the Liberties of the Parish.*

THAT it was necessary to support the full Authority of all the Ch--w--ns, as well in Matters relating to the proper Office as to the Trust-Estates, it may appear by some further Instances, out of the many which might be produc'd, of the Abuse of Power and the Excess of it.

AT the Time when the reforming Ch--w--ns were elected, a certain Glazier had been many Years employed to repair the Ch--h Windows, for which he had a yearly Appointment or Salary of several Pounds. Now let us enquire after what Manner this Man repaired the Windows? He did not lead and glaze them according to the Rules of his Profession: No, he saved his refuse Glass, long and misshapen Pieces, such as could not possibly be brought into Use amongst his Customers, and this he would stick into the Ch--h Windows, by mortaring the Glass at each end. If a Mullion, indeed, was to be mended, it was done in a more expeditious Manner, without Ceremony, by being wholly stopped up with Mortar. Hence it appears, that our Ch--

w--ns delighted more in Darkneſs than in Light. The Glazier being asked, how he could preſume to act ſuch a Part, offered no other Excuse than that his Predeceſſor had ſet the Example before him. Had it not been for the Change of Ch--w--ns, they had ſtill gone on in the ſame Way of mortaring, that in a few Years the Windows muſt have been exceedingly diſfigured.

But his Salary for ſpoiling the Windows was not ſufficient; this was allowed for his general Care only, to put in a ſingle Pane here-and-there; if it was neceſſary, or judged neceſſary, to repair a whole Window or the like, he was then paid in the ſame Manner as if he had not had any Salary at all: he was employ'd to take down and repair two large Windows, which were finiſh'd not long before the coming in of the reforming Ch--w--ns; and theſe alſo in their Year ordered a Window of the ſame Size to be taken down and repaired; (it was on this Occaſion that the V--r's Ch-w-n came in a great Hurry, and diſcharged Mr. H--n's Collegues from meddling in the Repairs of it). But behold! this Window, tho' very much out of Repair, coſt a fourth Part only, or thereabouts, of the whole Sum which had been allowed to the former Glaſier for the other two Windows. The Excuse here offered was, that the old Glaſs was exchanged for the Crown Sort: yet this Expence was abſolutely needleſs, theſe Windows were of the ſame Glaſs as all the others, which are very light and handſome, and they were moreover in a diſtant Part of the Church; the Panes were no larger than before, and the Difference was not obſerved by any Body, 'till it was pointed out upon this Occaſion.

The Libeller, in repreſenting the Story of the Iron-Cheſts, has inſinuated, that the Tradeſman was purchaſed as well as the Cheſt. We have ſhewn in its Place how unjuſt that Suppoſition was; but we are of Opinion this Glaſier was indeed purchaſed as well as his Work and Materials; and a valuable Man he was, and well worthy to be purchaſed at ſuch a Price. Upon the next Year's Conteſt for Ch-w--ns, the Glazier perceiving that an entire Stop had been put to his Gains, and that he could not hope to be employed again, unleſs the R--d's uſurped Power could be reſtored, he was wonderfully ſollicitous to accompliſh ſo uſeful a Point. The Craftſmen found that their Craft was in Danger to be ſet at nought; and this Man in particular was ſo extremely anxious, that he polled twice for the R--d's Ch--w--ns, and his Name is entered in two different Places of the Poll.

BUT

BUT the R—d, not contented with the Votes which have been thus purchased by the parochial Money, could not deny himself a Fellow-feeling even of the Money itself. About Twenty Four Years ago, a certain excellent Ch--w--n was in Office with the shrewd Landlord, when they allowed a Bill of several Pounds for mending the Fences of the V—r's Homestead, not next the Ch---h-yard, but on the contrary Side. Here every poor Person assailed by the Ch--w--ns was made to contribute to the Repairs of his Fences. The like Game was again attempted four Years ago ; a costly Fence of sawn Timber being ordered by our excellent Ch--w--ns, and erected on the very same Spot. But, on the coming in of the reforming Ch--h-w--s, this noble Fence being not paid for, the Workman told them, at one of the Vestries, he should be very glad, if they would discharge that Bill : This Request was treated, as it deserved, with some Contempt, tho' in the Libeller's Opinion it may be one of the just Demands of honest Tradesmen. However, the R—d did not pay the Workman himself ; he kept it in Suspence, and it has very lately been allowed by the Ch--w--ns ; tho' one of them, even a Tenant of the R—d, was so ashamed of the Affair, that he refused his Consent and withdrew from his Companions in Office,

When they passed their Accompt in the Ch--h, even since the Libel was dispersed, which might have made them more reserved, a very honest and publick spirited Tradesman, objected to the Fence Repairs as a very scandalous Thing ; they might as well, he said, repair the V--r--ge House at the Parish Cost. The shrewd Landlord thereupon replied, there was a Precedent for repairing the V-r--ge Fence, for it had been done for the Dr. many Years ago, when he was first a Ch-w-n : to which the Tradesman replied, that many a Precedent there was also for robbing upon the Highway ; but such Examples could not justify the Action. But another shrewd Landlord, a near Neighbour and Tenant to the R---d, affirmed, that the Parish ought to rebuild the V-r--ge House too at their Charge, as well as this Fence. We are not in any Secret that this Landlord had private Instructions to sound the Parish on this Head ; but we must observe here, that the V-r--ge House really does want rebuilding, and that there never was, nor is likely to be, a richer and more able V—r than the present : Yet we fear that it will not be rebuilt by him.

Now here we can't but take Notice, that one of the younger Sons of this defamed, and ravenous Family, as it is call'd, is a Clergyman, and has a V-r-ge House in *Lincolnshire*. This young Gentleman has the last Year pulled down the greatest Part of the House, and rebuilt it new, which has cost him Two Hundred Pounds, including Seventy Pounds which he received for Dilapidations. Mr. F—s also, the V—r of *Ev---rt---n*, whom the Libel has much defamed in the *Ev--rt--n* Account, pulled down his V-r-ge House, which was become very ruinous, and wholly rebuilt it at his own Charge with Brick and Tile : It is now more than Twenty Years ago, at a Time when he lived in the House belonging to his Farm, and could not have the least Apprehension that he should ever leave it. Behold the Difference of these V--rs ! *Ye shall know them by their Fruits. Do Men gather Grapes of Thorns, or Figs of Thistles ? A good Tree cannot bring forth evil Fruit, neither can a corrupt Tree bring forth good Fruit.* Matt. vii. 16, 18.

THIS very Tradesman, who objected to the V--r's Repairs, happened to be one of the junior Ch—w—ns for the Year 1729, who for some Time before had been entred in the P—sh Book by the Name of S-d-m-n ; and, according to the Usage, he was at Easter 1730 the Person to be nominated the V--r's Ch--w--n. The V—r now shewed an Inclination to deviate from the Custom which himself had always followed, agreeably to the Practice of his Predecessors. He therefore told this Tradesman, that he *intended* to nominate him his Ch--w--n, but withal informed him after what Manner he must act, and what he expected from him. In short, the honest Ch-w-n found, that if these Instructions were to be obeyed, he must be *led into any Thing, that he must vote and act* not according to his own Conscience and Reason, but *according to the V—r's Dictates ; as if he had no Thoughts, no Will, no Motions of his own ; as if he was a mere Thing and not a Person.* He, therefore, absolutely refused to undertake the Office on such Conditions as were proposed. The V—r, nevertheless, named him : for, had he attempted, at this Time, to have broke thro' the ancient Custom, he foresaw the rejected Officer might probably explain the Reasons, publish abroad the Conversation, and lay his Schemes open in glaring Colours to the public View. Thus much for Misapplications of Money raised by Assessments of the P—sh.

WE

WE now beg the Reader's Leave to give but one Instance here of a most unjust Misapplication of Trust-Money arising from Mr. M——s's Estate, which concerns the Salaries of the School-Masters and singing Boys.

THE principal View of M——s's Benefaction was the Endowment of his two Schools of Grammar and Song : These were to be supported in the first Place, before a Surplus could be applied to any other Use. L—d Ch——r duly provided for the Salaries of the Masters and the Six Singing Boys ; but as the Rents reserved by the Corporation were small, so were the Salaries which he first settled, *viz.* Twenty Pounds a Year to the Grammar School-Master, Seventeen Pounds a Year to the Song-School-Master, and Eight Pounds yearly to be divided amongst the Six Boys. The Decree is penned in these express Words, *That the four Ch--w--ns do, until the Charity Estates be increased by the falling in of Leases, or otherwise, pay the several Sums of Money herein-after-mentioned, &c.* which are the Sums we have named. The Rents would be necessarily increased as the Leases should expire ; the Ch——r therefore thought it reasonable to increase the Salaries ; and ordered, that when any of the Leases then subsisting should expire or drop in, the Increase of the Rents and Profits, which should arise thereby, should be shared amongst them in certain Proportions, until the Salaries were increased, *viz.* The Grammar School-Master's to Forty Pounds a Year, the Song School-Master's to Twenty Pounds, and the six Singing Boys to Twenty Four Pounds.

This Decree was made towards the latter End of the Year 1738. At the Lady-day following many Leases at *Ev--rt--n* dropped in, and the Increase of Rent which arose thereby actually exceeded the whole Increase of all the Salaries : Consequently the Schoolmasters, &c. were intitled to their full Salaries at the Midsummer Quarter of 1739. But when did they receive any Augmentation ? Not before the Year 1748 ; Mr. H--n and his Companions were then chosen into Office. These new Ch--w--ns, who always observed the Decree, paid the Salaries to the full Augmentation. But what were *the honest Men in Trust* doing all this while ? How did they discharge their Duty to the Founders Ordinance, and the L--d Ch——r's Decree ? Other Leases continued to drop in, and the Rents to increase still higher, yet not the least Advance was made by them in the Payment of Salaries. The Schoolmasters, &c. were for a long time defrauded of their whole Augmenta-

tions expressly given them by the Decree ; No less a time than eight Years and three Quarters ; they ought to have received three hundred forty Pounds and upwards more than had been paid to them. The Reader has before seen how determined the R---d was to pay himself his whole Subscription Money, and more ; this was the Channel into which the Application of *M-----s's* Rents was diverted. They were taking the Costs, nay, plundering the Estate by taking more than the Costs, that all the Subscribers might receive their full Money. This was accomplished upon the Application Day, which immediately preceded the Election of the abused Ch---w--ns. What many Acts of Injustice have these excellent Folks committed to bring about that favourite End ! The Costs were refused to be paid to the Relators, to whom alone the Payment was expressly decreed ; the Sum allowed for Costs by the L---d Ch-----r was greatly exceeded ; Mr. *H---n* the Solicitor was defrauded of his whole Money, against the great Ties of Gratitude and Justice ; the Master of the Grammar School, the Master of the Song School, and the six poor Singing Boys were extremely wronged in the Manner we have above related.

Their Plea doubtless for not advancing the Salaries must be that the Costs ought first to be paid ; but this is contrary as well to Reason as the express Words of the Decree. The Salaries all along paid from the Decree to Mr. *H---n's* Election were the same, though the Rents were vastly improved ; even the reserved Rents afforded a considerable Surplus, after Payment of those first Salaries settled by the Decree ; and when any improved Rents should increase the yearly Value of the Founder's Estate, that whole Increase, until it equalled the full Augmentation of all the Salaries, is expressly decreed to be applied towards the Augmentation. The Master, in his Report previous to the Decree, stated the real Value of *M-----s's* Estate to be three hundred and sixty-eight Pounds ten Shillings yearly ; whereas all the full Salaries, together with the M---y-r's &c, do not amount to ninety-two Pounds. If the Augmentation was not to have taken Place until the Costs were first answered, how need- less must have been that long Article in the Decree for settling the just Proportions of the Increase ? It had been then clearly evident, that before the Costs could be all paid, the Estate must be increased in Value far beyond the Augmentation of the Salaries. But to prevent a Possibility of Mistake, the Decree is not any where more fully expressed,

tan

than upon this Subject of the Salaries. What has been already cited is vastly clear and plain; yet the Decree, if possible, is still more exprefs, lest the Increase of the Salaries should be deferred: The L--d Ch——r, where he orders the Costs, directs them in exprefs Words to be had out of the Surplus Rents and Profits. The Trustees in January 1739 misapplied a large Sum out of M——s's Estate to the Repairs of the Ch—h; which if we add to the seventy-four Pounds and upwards taken over and above the Costs, and deduct the Amount, the Costs allowed had been before this time wholly discharged, tho' the Schoolmasters, &c. had received their just Salaries ever since the Decree. Mr. H—n and his Partners, in Conjunction with the other Trustees, first advanced the Salaries, and they immediately advanced them to the utmost. But, had the Trust continued in the former Hands, we believe the Reader will agree with us in Opinion, that the Salaries had not been augmented in that Year: The exemplary frugal Management of the reforming Ch—w—ns, to be easily discerned in several Parts of this Answer, so contrary to that of their Predecessors, evidently shews it. It is proper to observe, in this Place, that the original Salaries appointed by the Founder, though not equal in the Sum, yet were of vastly more Value than the present advanced Salaries. These latter do not amount to one fourth Part of the yearly Value of the Estate mentioned in the Master's Report; but the old Salaries exceeded three Fourths of the yearly Value mentioned in the Founder's Deed. What an aggravating Circumstance! To defraud the Masters and Boys of any Part of these moderate Appointments; so very moderate, as to bear no Proportion in their Value to the real Salaries intended for them by the Donor. We shall beg Leave to conclude this Head with transcribing a Part of the excellent Advice pretended to have been given by one of the Trustees, who, the Libel tells us, took upon him to expostulate one Day with the M--y-r, in Page 67. *Be assured, it does not require an extraordinary Degree of Understanding to distinguish what is right and what is wrong; and Men usually commit Acts of Injustice, more through the want of Honesty than the want of Judgment. Pray, for example's Sake, if a Decree directs you in the plainest Words to pay all just and necessary Demands out of any Estate committed to your Trust, does it require any mighty Penetration to determine, whether you shall vote for the Payment of those Demands or not?*

We

We should now proceed to give a true Representation of the second contested Choice, when the Re-election of the defamed Ch—w—ns was opposed by the R—d with all his Might and Artifice. But there is one Instance of public Spirit we cannot pass over, which our worthy tho' much injured Officers manifested in Discharge of their Duty, as it must greatly redound to their Reputation. The Reader may easily conceive, from what we have already explained, a great deal of Fatigue, such perhaps as was never before undergone by any Ch—w—ns; the numberless vile Schemes of Opposition rendered their Passage through the Office extremely rugged, but Union and Resolution surmounted every Difficulty. The Care of our Trust Estates is a great Addition to the Burthen of the P—sh Office, and the V—r in both Concerns equally resisted their Endeavours for the public Service. Yet, notwithstanding these manifold Discouragements, they were not to be wearied in doing Good, but even extended the Influence of their Place and Authority. All Ch—w—ns are Ov—rs of the Poor; but how rare is it, that ever they intermeddle in the Affairs of the Poor? The defamed Ch—w—ns, however, though Trustees of large Estates, and opposed in every Part of their Duty with outrageous Violence, could not satisfy themselves to overlook the Poor, especially as the State of our Workhouse required not a little Reformation.

In the Execution of this Part, the Ch—w—ns could not possibly have in View any other End, than to make the Workhouse truly useful both to the Parish and the Poor. The Ov—rs, as before, collected the whole Rates, bought every thing in, and laid down the Money; consequently the Ch—w—ns had it not in their Power, any more than in their Inclination, to gratify the sordid or ambitious Passions; they could not plunder the Public, nor raise any Interest in Votes. Now it is very observable, that in their Endeavours to reduce the Workhouse into Order, the Ch—w—ns were not in the least opposed; for as they could not serve a private Purpose by interesting themselves in these Affairs, so neither could the R—d, who therefore would not engage his Attention that way.

A well regulated House for the Entertainment of, and setting the Poor on Work, is an excellent Institution; but it is no where capable of becoming more complete, than in large and populous Parishes, which can singly maintain a House of this Kind, and are therefore no ways constrained to join with other Parishes in the Establishment. Such is

our

our Situation ; we have a Workhouse in the Town, established solely for our own Parish, the Care expended by the P--sh Officers is in Behalf of our own Poor only, and all things are under our immediate Inspection.

When the reforming Ch--w--ns were elected, the State of our indigent Poor was very deplorable ; this was occasioned by a want of regular Discipline in the House. A single Woman was the Mistress, who could not possibly be equal to the Work ; every Body must allow that both a Master and Mistress are necessary to answer the several Ends of governing and providing for the House, assigning to each his proper Task, teaching the young Children, &c. A married Couple, Persons experienced in the Business, were accordingly appointed the Master and Mistress of the House. Many were provided for there, who had not any Pretence to partake of the parochial Charity ; and generally those who were the least intitled were the most refractory and stubborn. These abounded in Oaths, and Imprecations against the Parish and its Officers ; they also insulted and tyrannized over the aged Poor and the helpless Children. The Key of the Street Door was always in the Lock, and the Door generally open ; so that the Persons maintained there might go into the Town at Pleasure ; they were not obliged to wear Badges ; and upon *Sundays* they did not repair to Church in an orderly Manner, with the Mistress at their Head, but were wholly left to their own Guidance and Inclination. Such want of Regulation must naturally excite many to get into the Parish House, who might comfortably provide for themselves in their own. An honest Householder, able to maintain a Family of young Children, might well apprehend for their Fate, if in case of his Death they must have necessarily fallen to the Parish ; for our Workhouse was certainly an extreme bad Place of Education.

These great Neglects loudly called out for an Amendment, towards which the Ch--w--ns contributed their hearty Assistance ; the Ov-r--rs were also zealous in promoting the same good Work. It is not possible to support a proper Authority without Discipline, nor the latter without a competent Knowledge of some useful Laws ; and to the want of this Knowledge we may impute most of the Disorders we have taken Notice of. Many excellent Provisions have been enacted from time to time for the Relief of the Poor, and against Immorality and Profaneness ; these are the Laws necessary to be known and practised. But Ov--f--rs continuing in the Office only one Year, and then new Officers succeeding,

succeeding, and being also seldom versed in these Laws, or
 seeing the proper Time to use them, the whole Benefit of
 Workhouses is not to be expected. The Officers of the
 reforming Year must be highly sensible of the Truth of
 this Observation. The necessary Clauses of our Statutes
 were abstracted and collected by the Ch—w—ns, explained
 to the Overseers, and put in Use. When Admonitions
 failed, Punishment was the only Method to soften the Sturdy
 and Obstinate into Compliance. It was enough to inflict it
 sparingly; the few Examples of Correction shewed the
 Power of Office, and the determined Resolves of the Pa-
 rish Officers to support Subordination and good Manners.
 They considered themselves to be entrusted as well for the
 Poor, as for the Parish who maintained them, and they
 acted agreeably to that Persuasion; they would not injure
 the poor People, but provide all things necessary and fit-
 ting, nor would they suffer the able-bodied and saucy to
 wanton in Idleness and Extravagance. Their Visits were
 frequent, when Complaints were heard and redressed. The
 Inhabitants of the Workhouse, old and young, were obliged
 to repair to Church on *Sundays*, and attend both the Morn-
 ing and Evening Service; they sat in a Place by themselves,
 under the immediate View of the Parish Officers, and the
 Appearance at least of Religion was now introduced a-
 mongst them. The Dissolute and Incurable could not
 be suffered to remain in the Society; for bad Example is
 most apt to corrupt. The mean spirited, who had made
 groundless Complaints, in order to be maintained by others,
 tho' able to maintain themselves, were either expelled, or
 chose voluntarily to quit the House: And we believe it may
 be said with great Truth, that the real Objects of Charity,
viz. the old People, the Infirm, and the Children, never
 enjoyed more Ease and Satisfaction.

There is not any of the public Institutions that demands
 so careful a Regard to its Regulations, as that of the Work-
 house; and it is a painful Circumstance, that in so many
 Places, we might almost say in the Generality of Towns in
 the Kingdom, it has the least Notice taken of it, nor is any
 thing under the Public Care subject to so many Abuses. When
 the People of happier Fortunes deny, to those whose Lot is
 harder, the little Care and Attention that is expected of
 them in Regard to their Relief, Oppression never fails to be
 added to their other Calamities; and the very Means of
 their Support become the greatest Severities. It was thus
 in this particular Workhouse, and it is thus in too many
 more.

more : Several lazy, wicked People had got in, who, tho' they had no Right to the Charity, not only abused it themselves, but ill-treated those who had : The Old, the Feeble, and the Infants were subjected to these Intruders, and the Whole was a Scene of Tyranny and Confusion. The reforming Ch--w--ns, with the Ov-rs, found Means to direct this Charity into its proper Course ; they rescued the proper Objects of the Charity from these Abuses ; and, while they punished and expelled such as had no Right to the Benefit of the Establishment, they made it a Place of Comfort and Security to those who were properly the Objects of their Care.

The Regulation of a Workhouse is a thing that ought to be the Care of every worthy Parish Officer, as there is no knowing to how many, or to whom, it may be of Use. The Accidents of this Life are so numerous, that no Person whatsoever is secure of the Condition he possesses. Losses or Sicknes may come upon Persons, who at present support themselves comfortably by their Industry ; or their Children may, when young and helpless, be left destitute. In a well-regulated Parish it would be the greatest Comfort to Multitudes to know, that if Providence should please to afflict them, they were sure of being supported in a decent Manner ; or, should their Children, while young and helpless, be left destitute, that they would be taken as much Care of there as they could have been at home.

In this, and in all the other Parts of their Office, the reforming Ch--w--ns did their Duty : They do not claim any Merit farther ; but where the Duty of an Office, of so much Importance to the Welfare of the Community, had been so long and so generally neglected, there was great Advantage to the Whole from the faithful and Christian Discharge of it. In every Branch of their Office they acted up to the same Principles of Honour and Benevolence as in this ; and if they had continued in that Office, it is not easy to say what would have been the End of the Good the Parish would have received from it. The People who were Judges of this were sensible of it ; they desired them to continue in their Places : Troublesome as the Office was, they consented for the general Good to be rechosen. Could any one have thought after this, that Opposition could have come from any Quarter ; or if it was to come at all, could any Body, but those who knew the M--n-ft-r of the P--sh, suppose it should come from him ? A Person too, who nominated a Ch--w--n independently of the Parish, and therefore

fore had no Right to intermeddle in their Choice ; And of this he was so sensible, that he had not in the preceding, nor did he in the subsequent Election, presume to give his own Vote. Yet such was the Rancour of his Heart, that while the reforming Ch-w-ns were applauded and thanked by all rational People for the Discharge of their Duty, he opposed the Re-election of these Officers with all the Force of clandestine Artifice and open Riot. He had Interests contrary to those of the Parish to support ; and we shall see in the next Chapter in what Manner he supported them.

C H A P. IX.

The History of the second contested Ch---w---n Election.

HAVING gone through the Account of the Conduct of the reforming Ch--w--ns, during their Year of Office, we are now arrived at the Election of those who were to succeed them for the next Year : This the Libeller has related according to his usual Manner, in Pages 36, 37, &c. The Election is represented *to have been gained by a prodigious Majority, to have been a terrible Fall to the defamed Ch--w--n and his Family, and to have been made in a more orderly and quiet Manner than ever had been known in any Contest.* The Libeller having founded upon his Misrepresentation of this Election, and the Consequences which followed it, his great Charge against the Veracity of the defamed Family, we shall beg Permission of the Candid Reader to be circumstantial in our Relation of it : After this, we shall not entertain the least Doubt, but that the Nature of the whole Transaction must evidently speak for itself ; and will indisputably shew, Whether We, or our Antagonist, are intitled to the Credit which is due to Truth.

The V---r having seen, by what had passed in the former Year, that his Interest in the Trust Estates, and in almost every thing dependant upon the Church, was now entirely lost, and his great View of chusing a M-----r of P----t ruined with it, he determined, as it was then given out, to carry the Ch--w--n Choice the next Year, if it were possible, on any Terms, even though it should cost him a thousand Pounds. But the Parishioners had no Views of that Sort, and the Great Men, who have such Views,

did

did not engage, nor were desired to engage in these parochial Disputes.

About three Weeks before the Day of Election, there was held a very considerable Meeting of the Magistrates, Gentlemen, and principal Tradesmen of the Town, at the King's Hall, to consider of proper Persons to serve in the Office. The Ch--w--ns in Being having acted with great Vigour and Circumspection, and fully answered the Expectations of their Electors, were at this Meeting unanimously desired to become Candidates for the succeeding Year. They did not at first comply with the Request: The Trouble which had been given them, in the Execution of their Office, through the most strange and unreasonable Oppositions of the V--r, was too much; but as none were so well acquainted with the present Affairs, and as some things were yet to be done, they were still pressed to undertake the Charge once more. It was now given out by some body in the Hall, that the V--r's Aversion was to Mr. H--n in particular; and that if he was changed, the V--r would be easy with what they did. Mr. H--n, unwilling to involve the Parish in Disputes on his own particular Account, gave up the Thoughts of it, and desired that a Message from this great and principal Body of Parishioners might be sent to him "That Mr. H--n would decline, and some other Person should be chosen in his stead, if that would satisfy him." Accordingly Mr. F--r, Son of the late Relator, Mr. W---m R--ll, and Mr. J. M--ln--s, three Gentlemen of the Town, were sent to him: But, as great Numbers of People were in the Hall, the V--r doubtless had early Intelligence of what had passed; for, when these Gentlemen came to his House, he had the Insolence to refuse to see any one of them; so that they returned to the Hall again, after having been treated in that contemptuous Manner. Mr. H--n therefore, it is plain, was not the real Source of Objection; but that any Gentleman should be chosen was the Grievance, or indeed that any others should, who were not his Creatures and Dependents.

Immediately after this Meeting, the V--r began his Operations for the approaching Contest; he sent for many of the Inhabitants singly to his House, he greatly misrepresented the Transactions of the Ch--w--ns; he cried out the Town would be ruined, if they were chosen again; he promised, threatened, and used many Arts to engage them to vote for Persons he should recommend. The old Ch--w--ns applied only to the Parishioners charged in the Ch--ch Rate, being

being the Persons interested ; but their Opposer courted all : His Election could not be supported by a Majority of legal Votes, Reason and Argument were not on his Side : It was therefore necessary to introduce Force and Numbers by any Means. The Captains of Mobs gave Drink to Many to shout, as they termed it, but, in Truth, to riot and to act in the most outrageous and disorderly Manner. Never was so religious a Season as Lent, the most awful Part of it the Passion Week, and the high Festival of *Easter* so horridly abused : Nor did it appear a small Part of the Aggravation to the sober and religious People of the Parish, that He, whose Character ought to have made him an Example for the keeping it, was the immediate Cause of the Profanation : But what will not a thirst of Power do ? Or what are Men to expect from him, who dares to violate in this Manner the Laws of his God, which he was commissioned to protect and inculcate ? Charity, the distinguished Virtue of this holy Season, was driven from amongst the lower Class ; they were inflamed with Liquor, and abused by slanderous Invectives ; and Rage and Malice were hence substituted in its Place. Ever after the Meeting, at which the old Ch--w--ns were declared Candidates, to the Day of Election, which was near three Weeks, such Quantities of Ale were given, that the lower Sort of People were kept quite inflamed. All who declared themselves against the present Ch--w--ns were welcome at the public Houses of the opposing Party ; and the People of many of those Houses were gained by the Money which was spent in them on this Occasion. Falshoods, and Misrepresentations of the Magistrates and Ch--w--ns, were industriously spread at these Ale-house Meetings.

The Gentlemen and principal Inhabitants, soon after the Declaration of their Candidates, walked the Town in Form to solicit Votes ; and amongst these were the Clergy residing in the Town, except the V--r's C-r--tes of this and a neighbouring Parish, who were neutral. The V--r soon after sent a Message in Writing by the P--sh-Cl--k to some of these Clergy, " That he thought it *indecent* for them, (*to say no worse*), to interfere in the Affairs of his Parish *against him*." Amazing ! as if they had not a Right to engage in their own Concerns, and vote for the Parish-Officers they were to trust ; this Message, however, they answered in a Manner worthy of themselves, and their Cause. We are not to wonder, after this, at the insolent and peremptory Behaviour of this Parish Tyrant, when

we find him thus aiming at exercising such a Power over his Brethren. As the Ch--w--ns Friends were engaged in this Address, a poor Fellow thrust out his Hand with a Guinea in it, and asked if they would cover *That*; he was answered that they stood not to serve themselves but the Parish, and that they would neither give Money nor Drink for the Office. The defam'd Ch--w--n, who is represented in the Libel as *putting on an Air of Servility, supplicating, fawning and promising, as if his very Bread had depended upon the Office*, being asked by some for Favours in Consideration of their voting for him, replied, "He was not laying himself under any Obligation; he thought the Parish was obliged to him for his Readiness, at their Request, to serve them; and not that he was obliged to the Parish." Money, Ale and Deceit are very powerful Charms for procuring Votes; but the Ch--w--ns despised all these, and relied on the good Sense of the better and more interested Parishioners.

It became, during this Contest, very dangerous to walk the Streets at Night, and many Insults were then offered. The Shout of these drunken Mobs during the whole time of electioneering, at the Place of Poll, and afterwards, was *A Doctor, A Doctor!* Nor, (which is very remarkable), did they ever once in their Shouts use the Names of any of their three Candidates. It was given out that there would be great Tumults on the Election Day, to intimidate the Voters from coming; and indeed every thing was prepared and acted with a terrible Aspect. The Place customarily made Use of for Parish Meetings is where, at the Visitations, the Ch--w--ns are sworn in, and deliver their Presentments. The Inconvenience of this Place was experienced the Year before upon taking the Ch--w--n Poll, when the V--r and Parishioners, after a while, all moved from it, to find a Place more commodious: The V--r even proposed to adjourn to the next Day, that some Convenience might be put up, which he much desired; but *Easter-Tuesday* being the usual Day, this could not be complied with: He then would go to the Engine House, the Parish Library, &c. and others to other Parts of the Church; yet, as none of these Places were previously contrived, the Parishioners at length returned to the usual Place. But this Year, as it plainly appeared that a far greater Number of People would attend the Election than ever had been known to do so before, and that probably there would be much Tumult and Mobbing, the Ch--w--ns took care to erect, at the Place of Polling, a very convenient Partition for the Security of the

Magistrates and principal Inhabitants, the V--r and themselves, the Poll-takers and Triers ; and that all the Voters might come up and go off with Ease and Safety. But when the Work was almost completed, this very V--r sent his Servant on *Easter-Eve* to forbid the Workmen from proceeding, and to tell them he would order all they had done to be pulled down : He appeared in this Affair to be as good as his Word ; for early on *Monday* Morning the Partition was cleared away, and the Boards carried off and locked up. The Impossibility of taking the Poll without some Convenience of this Kind, engaged two of the Ch--w--ns to wait upon his *Mightiness* the V--r on *Monday*, to beg of him that the Partition might be set up again, or that he would himself contrive some other Work ; but this Arrogant Man was now deaf to all they could say, though the *Easter* before he was more apprehensive than any one else of the great Inconvenience of the Poll Place. A *Scotch* Highland Bag-piper was procur'd from *L-nc--n* on *Easter-Monday*, the Day before the Election, who with a great drunken Mob paraded about : Before Mr. M--y-r's House he drew his broad Sword, and brandished it in a threatening Manner. The civil Power of Magistrates could not be opposed to the Daring Insolence of the Mob ; but the M--y-r sent an Express to *L-nc--n* to the Commanding Officer, to have the Man recalled, which was accordingly done : Having lost the Highland Bag-pipe, a French Horn was procured, which, with the Addition of Drums, was a very fine military Appearance to go to Church with, to chuse Ch--w--ns.

On the Morning of *Easter* Sunday, a Notice in Writing was delivered by one of the Ch- w--ns to the P--sh C--k, to be published in the Church, for the Parishioners to assemble on *Easter* Tuesday, at Nine o'Clock, to elect the Ch--w--ns ; and this also was mentioned the same Sunday Morning to the V--r, by one of the Ch-w--ns ; the V--r then thought Nine would be too soon, but agreed to *Half an Hour after Nine* : the Cl--k, however, when he published Notice on the Sunday Afternoon, omitted the Hour, and desired the Parishioners to meet on Tuesday Morning *when the Bell tolled*. The same Art was used the Year before, and much complained of. This is the constant shameful Method of all public Notices now given at N--., *not to mention the Hour*, except as to the Trust-Estates where the Decree has fixed it. But half an Hour after Nine being the Time agreed upon, the Voters for the old Ch-w--ns were desired on Monday, to meet the next Morning in the

Grammar

Gram
to p
they
pres
and
tuou
dene
The
and
Way
A D
W
tende
was
Shou
at N
Misc
groun
Mr. A
to hi
not t
Libel
found
and t
his m
to all
ed in
round
to, th
one fi
at thi
he go
and to
this o
of Ha
of the
rity in
this C
gloom
now i
invari
its ow
own A
of its
Conse

Grammar-School, at half an Hour past Eight, and thence to proceed to the Place of Poll. But soon after Eight o'Clock they were alarmed by tolling of the Bell; the Poll-Table was presently possessed by the V--r, his Candidates and Poll-takers, and the Place surrounded and choaked up by a most tumultuous and drunken Mob; Even Women, inflam'd and maddened with Liquor, were scattered about in the Church. The V--r's Ch-w-n, his Relation, instructed the Multitude and called aloud, *Shout out Lads, keep your Place, and give Way to no one*, which the Mob answered with the Shouts of *A Doctor, A Doctor!*

When the old C-w-ns, with the M-y-r and Al-m-n, attended by the Constables, came to the Poll-Place, nothing was heard and seen but the throwing up of Hats, and the Shouts of *A Doctor, A Doctor!* It was the general Opinion at N——, and in the neighbouring Country, that much Mischief would be done at the Election; and this was grounded upon the most apparent Circumstances of Terror. Mr. H--n the Ch-w-n did, 'tis true, apprehend great Danger to himself and some others; but he was too deeply engaged, not to make his personal Appearance in the Church. The Libeller has impudently represented him *to stand silent, confounded and terrified, to skulk behind a certain noisy Advocate, and to appear like one who came to be tried by the Parish for his manifold Misdemeanours*. This Ch-w-n, it is known to all, acted a very different Part; He did not seem dismayed in the Midst of all the Outrage and Confusion which surrounded him; He had the Integrity of his Actions to trust to, the Pleasure of reflecting upon a Conduct which in any one single Instance he could not wish to be undone. Being at this Time the R-c-rd-r, and as such a Justice of Peace, he got upon the Table to say something to pacify the People, and to put the Business of Election into some Order; but this only occasioned more Noise and Tumult, throwing up of Hats and shouting from a drunken Mob: Nor had any of the three Ch-w-ns chosen by the Parish the least Authority in presiding at, or directing the Poll. The Author of this Confusion appeared with his Countenance very dark and gloomy, strongly expressive of the great Mischief he had now in his Heart. It is a remarkable Observation, but an invariably true one, that Guilt is always cowardly; even its own Instruments often strike a Terror into it, and its own Aspect speaks the Dread of some Mischief, the Terror of its Engines recoiling upon itself. He apprehended such Consequences, that he durst not trust himself even in his

own Mob. The People he opposed, it was known, would be very sober, quiet and peaceable, and there could be no Danger from them, except in their own necessary Defence; yet he so much dreaded for his own Person, knowing he must be considered as the Author of all the Mischief that would ensue, that he hired many strong Fellows from a neighbouring Village, who were observed to be his Body Guard. What a Wretch was this! who was the Spring of all the Mischief, who intended such Ruin and Destruction to other People, and yet took such an extraordinary Care for himself.

The V--r had ordered a Bassock to be placed, and this, truly, all that were to poll must mount upon; and this Bass was contrived to be thickly surrounded by the most violent of the Mob, who wanted no Instructions how to behave to those that came to vote for the Ch-w-ns of the Year before. Mr. H---n, the Father, being an Al-m-n, had got with the M-y-r to the Table, and having Occasion to go out of Town desired to give his Vote: But where do you think the R——d would have sent him to poll? Why, tho' he was now directly before the Writers, in a very proper Place for giving his Vote, he bid him leave that Place, and go round to the Bass, and poll there: But this being so very unprecedented a Thing, and so ridiculous in itself, the Writers took his Vote where he was. He could mean nothing else in this, but that Mr. H--n, by passing thro' the Mob to the Bass, might be insulted, or receive some Injury. The Writers for the Ch-w-ns were not suffered to come to the Table, but were thrust behind, where they could not hear any Persons Name that polled, nor for whom they gave their Vote. There was no Passage for the Voters to come up to, or go off from the appointed Bass, but thro' a Croud of riotous Creatures ready for all kinds of Mischief; nor could any Person attempt to get through to vote for the former Ch-w-ns, without manifest Hazard of his Life. Some Gentlemen were seized in the Church by the Collar, and one of them seeing so much Violence cried out, *Murder!* The drunken People thrust their Heads with noisy Clamour over the Table, and the holding up of Fists, the Threats and the Noise was such, that the Business could not possibly proceed. In half an Hour or three Quarters from beginning of the Poll, but one Vote was taken for the old Ch-w-ns, that is, Mr. H--n's, whose Vote was received at the Table. In short, the Magistrates and Friends of the old Ch-w-ns, being perfectly sober, and seeing no Possibility

Possibility of carrying the Poll on there, but a certain Prospect of Fighting and Destruction, withdrew to the Grammar School, which is a large Room, and very near the Church and Churchyard; and here they took their Poll. Upon their retiring, the drunken Mob shouted and threw up their Hats; nor was the R—d himself behind hand, for he shook his Hat about, and shouted like the rest.

The Libeller tells us in P. 41. that the Election of the new Ch-w-ns was made in the Church, by a *prodigious Majority of Voices*. Prodigious indeed! Mr. H—n's was the only Voice that was, or could be, taken in the Church for the former Ch-w-ns before they retir'd; and afterwards, one other Person voted there for the same Side. This is the prodigious Majority he means, which no Reader without Assistance could possibly understand; and this is his Way of relating Facts throughout the whole Book. The Libeller does not chuse to consider the Poll taken at the School as any Poll at all, as not being in the customary Place; but a Reader would really apprehend from his Account, that he meant to set his Poll in the Church, in Opposition to that Poll at the School, where the old Ch-w-ns had a considerable Majority of legal Votes, more than the Church Poll, for their Continuance in Office, and those of the best and sober Part of the Town. Yet how does the Libeller carry on this Farce of a prodigious Majority, as a *piteous Fall* to the Ch-w-n and his Family: A piteous Fall truly it was, if the Church Poll alone was to be considered. But if the V—r's Poll had even happened to have had a small Majority, consisting of the lower Class of People, who are easily imposed upon by designing Men, could that be thought a terrible Fall, or Disparagement, to any Candidates who had the Magistrates, Gentlemen and Principal Tradesmen of the Place on their Side? The Approbation of these, who are the best Judges and most interested, is infinitely more to be regarded than even a large Majority of drunken Mob. How uncandid a Creature must he, therefore, appear, who would impose this fallacious Account upon his Reader, under such a Concealment of the most material Circumstances? But the Truth is, that the Ch-w-ns were, by the Riot, obliged to retire to the School; there they polled their Voters, and they had here a Majority of legal Votes, that is, of such who were assessed in the Ch--- Levies; and this was real Matter of Triumph, as it was carried in Despight of all the great Expence and Violence of the other Side.

The old Ch—w—ns polled on their Side the M—y—r and Ten of the Al—m—n, the Gentlemen and the principal People: But at the Church, where the other Side polled, they took any Thing that offered; People who had a Right to vote, and those who had none, such as were never assessed in their Lives, and Persons of no Property. It has been even acknowledged, that if the Side for the old Ch—w—ns had not retired as they did, they were determined to have driven them out of the Church by Force, because they had objected to their first Voter, as being not assessed in the Ch— Rates. We are credibly informed that, after they were retired, nothing could be got from many of those who voted for the V—r's Ch—h—w—ns, but *A Doctor, A Doctor!* upon which they were set down for his Three. It was scandalous that such a Body of the Town should be terrified, and absolutely driven from the Poll, by a drunken Mob, most of whom had not any Interest in the Matter. The V—r's Poll has been examined with the Ch—w—ns Rate, and it appears that not half the Names on that Poll were assessed in the Rate. It can be no Concern to People who have no Right in the Money, who it is that has the Disposal of it: What can Persons, who pay nothing to the Levies, regard who are in the Office, or whether they be frugal or extravagant? When the V—r broke up with his Party at the Church, he was attended Home, accompanied on each Side by a drunken Fellow bald-pated, the Drums beating, a Bagpipe, and the French Horn playing before him, and a most shabby drunken Company crying, *A Doctor, A Doctor!* And notwithstanding the pretended Order and Quietness of their Election, several were knocked down and much beat by that Party in the Market-Place, when the Election was over, tho' they had so peaceably retired and given Way during the Time.

It was greatly owing to the Prudence of the Magistrates, that no Murders were committed; for the Mob was thoroughly prepared. But as by that withdrawing from the Place, such great Mischiefs were prevented, the Libeller would plume himself that all Things were very peaceable, and that the Riot of that Day was all a Lye and Story, calculated to impose upon the World: But the Nature of Things shews the Reality of the Tumult. Could any be so weak as to believe the Magistrates and Chief of the Town would leave the Church out of Caprice? Nothing could support their Poll in any other than the usual Place, but the Impossibility of polling in the Church. Had they retired, and not polled any where, it might have been then

said,

said, that the Riot was a Pretence to conceal the Weakness of the Side they were for ; but they wanted no such Subterfuge, they were not *ashamed of their Numbers*, did not doubt their Majority, and therefore scrupled not to poll them and to shew their Strength. It was also a great Disadvantage to them to be obliged to leave the proper Place ; they must doubtless lose Votes by it. It was difficult in the Midst of that Tumult to make their Friends know what they were to do, and whither to go : Yet, notwithstanding all the Inconveniences they labour'd under, the former Ch-w-n-s had a clear Majority. They were, on this just Foundation, very desirous to controvert the Election in the proper Court, which will appear by and by : It would have been the most ridiculous Thing in the World to have offered this, if they had not had a clear Majority. It is also proper to observe that, neither, upon this second Election was the Interest of the Great at all engaged : The Great Man's Land St—d, whose Court Mr. H--n keeps, being asked by some of the Tenants, informed them, that they were entirely at Liberty to vote as they pleased, and this was well known to the whole Town. But the Libel making this idle Reflection, the Votes given by the Tenants of the Noble Personage have been examined, and they were so nearly equal on both Sides that, if the V--r had had five more of them, he would have had the Majority, even of those Tenants : But as the principal People of the Parish were against the V--r, so it happened amongst these Tenants ; the lower Class mostly voted for him, some of whom were so much in Arrear, that if they had been pressed by the St—d, they must of Necessity have voted against him. Several Gentlemen and Persons of Consideration living in the Country came to Town on the Day of Election, and were Eye-Witnesses of the riotous Disorders in the Church and Market-Place : These Acts of Violence were not only conducive to the R--d's Scheme of the present Election ; but they were intended, doubtless, to intimidate the Parishioners, and frighten them from any future Attempts of Ch--w--n Elections.

THE infamous Accusation, with which the Author closes his Account of this Ch-w-n Choice, that Mr. H—n, in Case of his Re-election, had intended to present Mr. Kn--pe with the Sum of Forty Pounds, being a Year's Rent of the S—dw—th Farm, has been already very clearly answered in P. 54. of this Reply.

C H A P. X.

*An Account of the Proceedings in the Common-Law
and Spiritual Courts.*

THE Libeller, having given his Account of the second Election, proceeds to represent, we should say, misrepresent, what passed in the Courts. He tells us in P. 42. *That when the Day came for hearing in the Spiritual Court, the defam'd Ch—w—n did not appear; That the Cause was often adjourned from Court-Day to Court-Day, and not the least Attempt made to prove his Right of Election; and that the new Ch—w—ns, foreseeing no End of those studied Delays, obtained a Mandamus from the Court of King's Bench; to frustrate which, that another Mandamus was procured by him to swear in himself and the other two Candidates of his Party as Ch—w—ns; but, as he had commenced a Suit in the Spiritual Court which he durst not prosecute, so neither had he the Hardiness to proceed upon the Writ of Mandamus he had procured.* This, like the rest of this Gentleman's Assertions, has the Appearance of a heavy Charge; but it will be rendered as contemptible as the rest, by the same Method of bringing the Truth to face it. We shall, by Way of Answer, set forth the Facts, and shew how that Affair terminated.

After the Election, Caveats were entered by each Side against swearing in the Candidates; the V—'s Caveat was entered *in his own Name*. Both Parties expected the Issue of the Visitation, but at that time neither were sworn, by reason of the Caveats entered on both Parts; but a Day was assign'd, viz. the 27th of July, for both to attend the Court at N——m. Before the Court-Day, Mr. H—~~u~~ received a Message by the R-g-ft-r from the Off-c-l, which, as he apprehended it, was that the Cause did not appertain to the Off-c-l, and that he should therefore decline the hearing it. This was the Reason, and no other but this, that they did not appear at that Court: But, notwithstanding, Advice was had that the Cause was then continued to the Court Day following, being the 26th of September. The Libeller speaks of several Court Days after the 27th of July, and before the Application for the V—r's Mandamus, and of the studied and repeated Delays at those Courts; whereas that on the 26th of September was in Truth and Reality the only Court Day. The Off-c-l and R-g-ft-r did then insist that

Mr.

Mr. *H--n* misunderstood the Message. The Ch--w--ns however, finding the Cause continued contrary to their Expectation, had taken the Opinion of a very eminent Council in *London*, known to have joined a great Knowledge both of the Common and Civil Laws : This Gentleman gave it very clear, that the Ecclesiastical Court could not determine the Right of the Election. This Opinion was shewn to the Court on the 26th of *September*, and the Ch-w-ns likewise did then deliver in Writing their many Reasons against the Jurisdiction. It is proper to be known in this Place, that whatever Determination might be made in the Spiritual Court, the Cause, notwithstanding, would still have lain open to the Common Law by the Way of *Mandamus* ; and it would have been an extreme Grievance and Expence to the Subject to be drawn into different Courts to controvert the same Point. The Off-c-l upon this did not proceed, neither did he dismiss the Cause out of his Court ; but he told the Ch-w-ns they might apply to the King's Courts for a Writ of Prohibition.

This Cause was carried on by Subscription. Mr. *H--ns* subscribed very handsomely, and were much pressed to be concerned to carry it on ; but they were so far from that ravenous Temper which the Libel represents in them of *bandying the Ball of Law between the Country and the London Brothers*, that they could not be prevailed upon to engage in this at all, but declined it and left it to others. They did the same in the other Instances of Suit, to avoid all possibility of Reflections ; but the villainous Suggestions of this Libeller could not be avoided. Mr. *S-g-e* an Attorney at *N--m* was employed in the Prohibition Cause, and a Suggestion was settled by Council in order to move for a Prohibition ; but the V--r taking out a *Mandamus* in the Beginning of *Michaelmas* Term, (and sooner he could not after the Visitation, that happening this Year in the Trinity Vacation, which was very late), the Council advised Mr. *S-g-e*'s Agent in *London*, not to move for a Prohibition, (it being plain the Spiritual Court would not now proceed further in the Cause), but to move for and send down a *Mandamus* to swear the old Ch-w-ns, which they might use or not as Occasion offer'd : And this Advice the Agent pursued.

It is easy for a Man of Artifice and Address to misrepresent Facts and Circumstances, when he has the whole Story to tell his own Way. Mr. *H--n* does not affect to be thought that violent, hotheaded and outrageous Man, that the V--r has

has shewed himself on all these Occasions; but both his former, and his succeeding Conduct in this Matter, shew'd that he was determin'd to assert his Right to the utmost that Reason dictated.

The next Court Day at N——m was on the 31st of October, when each Party attended with their *Mandamus*; and Mr. H—n, according to the Practice in these Cases, delivered a Bond, signed by himself and one of his Fellow-Ch-w-ns, in a very large Penalty, to indemnify the Off-c-l: This was a clear Demonstration that he was in earnest to controvert the Election in the proper Court: but this being a new Thing to them, the Off-c-l propos'd a further Time that he might take some Advice. This *Mandamus*, called in Law the first *Mandamus*, is a Writ commanding the Off-c-l in the *Disjunctive* to swear the Persons named therein, or, to shew Cause to the Contrary: Shewing Cause is making a Return on the Writ, that the Persons were not duly elected, or, as the Case is. This is a very common Practice. The Party suing the *Mandamus* may plead to the Return; and, in Case he prevails, a *peremptory Mandamus* then issues to swear the Persons named, and admit them into the Office. But as the Off-c-l makes himself a Party by his Return of *Not elected*, it is the constant Course for those who desire that Return, to give Bond to indemnify him against all Damages and Costs of Suit. Upon the Day appointed the Candidates again attended at the Court, when the Off-c-l declared his Intentions to swear them all into the Office; he was advis'd that this Conduct was the most impartial, and that he should then have no more to do in the Dispute. The Consequence of this Resolution happened to be such in our Parish, that he might as well have determin'd to swear the Three set up by the V—r and refuse the others; for the Ch—w—ns being Four, One nominated by the V—r and Three chosen by the Parish, and the Contest concerning only those Three, all Seven being sworn and admitted, the V—r must always have a certain Majority, he setting up Three of the contending Parties. Nor, indeed, would the Gentlemen who contested the Election act with the Persons whom the V—r had recommended to the Parish Offices. The old Ch-w-ns apprehending the Bond, which had been before delivered, would be accepted, and that the V—r's *Mandamus* would be put into their Hands, to make such Return to the Court of King's Bench as Council should advise, the Ch—w—n Mr. H—n made this Journey to N——m without his Collegues; but seeing the
Event,

Event, he was determined in his own Mind not to engage in an Oath to execute the Office, tho' he would not now take an open Resolution against it in their Absence. He then, indeed, declared his Opinion, that it could not be worth their while to engage in the Method chosen by the Off-c-l, they could not possibly be of any Service to the Parish; but he did not *beg for God's Sake*, nor appear in the least uneasy; no one, indeed, can suppose he did: He had acted uniformly throughout; he had rendered important Services to the Parish; the Failure here was no ways in his Power to prevent; his Behaviour therefore was calm and unconcerned. The Off-c-l did after the Court, at the Inn, much recommend to Mr. H—n, that they also would take the Oath. On his Return to N—— he acquainted his Partners with the Issue, who were unanimous in refusing the Oath; and in two or three Days the Off-c-l was acquainted that they would not take it in that Way.

It is certain the Officer, to whom a *Mandamus* is directed, may swear all, any, or none of the contending Parties: But, in directing his Choice, we apprehend he ought to have a Regard first to his own Safety; and when that is provided for, to that Cause which he esteems the most just. No Spiritual Officer, who is a Stranger and disinterested, can be supposed to make a Return without an Indemnity: And the very Form of the first *Mandamus*, being in the Disjunctive, seems to recommend a Return, where he may do it safely, and probably in favour of the Right; otherwise the Difference would in a great Measure be taken away between the first and the peremptory *Mandamus*. The Inconveniencies of always swearing on the first *Mandamus*, we conceive, would be extremely great: Any troublesome Person might then purchase a *Mandamus*, to put himself into Possession of the Office, without the least Colour of an Election, or of any Right. Strange Jarring and Contradiction must in that Case arise betwixt Persons mutually denying each others Title, especially, if any of them should not be decent in their Behaviour; and the Mischiefs appear unavoidable of a Multiplicity of Suits. We thought proper to say thus much on the Subject of the Writ of *Mandamus*, to explain the Nature of it to those not acquainted with it, and to vindicate the Conduct of the Ch—w—ns. We do not mean to reflect upon what has passed, or to fix Rules for future Direction; Every one must in these Cases determine himself at last by his own Opinion. It is easy to misrepresent Things to those unacquainted with the Forms and Regulations of these

these Proceedings, so as to make the most proper Conduct appear the most ridiculous, the most rational the most absurd; but when the Nature of this Transaction has been thus far explained, it will be easy for even the most unacquainted with these Things to see, that Mr. *H—n*, and the Gentlemen join'd with him, did all that they ought to have done on this Occasion, and they think it no Reproach to them not to have done more.

C H A P. XI.

The artful Views of the Libel, in charging the defamed Family to be Persons of no Credit, considered; and the Charge proved to be most base and groundless.

THE Libeller finishes his Story of the second Election, and of what happened afterwards at *N—m*, with a more than ordinary Triumph and Satisfaction. He takes Occasion, from his own Misrepresentations of the Affairs transacted at that time, to stigmatize *the Ch--w--n* as a false Informer, and Person of no Credit; he observes, that he and his Agents complained of Tumults without Cause, spread Calumnies without Foundation, and caused injurious Thoughts to be entertained of those who no way deserved Censure. And if any Personages in high Stations had been imposed upon by their fallacious Accounts, (as there was too much Reason, he thinks, to believe they had), he concludes in P. 45 with advising them, To withdraw their Confidence for the future from such Deceivers, and not suffer themselves any more to be abused by their Artifices. In P. 58 the Libeller introduces this solemn Declaration, That not only common Justice has moved us, but the uncommon Malice displayed on all Occasions by this late *Ch--w--n* and his Family against *D. W—n*, has roused us up to say more of his public Conduct than we intended, and less could not be said to place it in its true Light. In P. 56 he renews with fresh Vigour, and additional Malice, his Attack upon the Veracity of the defamed Family; he there ascribes the Malice, Disingenuity and Falshood of the *Ch—w--n* to the Example of his Father, which latter he does affirm to have attempted with unwearied Industry to

utilify

vilify and blast, if possible, the Reputation of the V—r, because he had been the most indefatigable Opposer of his and his Family's Proceedings against the Decree, and against the Parish; to have acted as if he thought, that the most politic Method he could take to conceal the unfairness of his own Proceedings, would be to load the opposing Trustee with all the Falshoods he could invent, and thereby draw the Attention of Men another way, that the Severity of Truth against himself might be either not known or not believed. We are very credibly informed, says the Libeller, that to serve his Purposes he has not scrupled confidently to utter the most injurious Calumnies against worthy Men, though they have been instantly disproved to his very Face.

This is a most heavy, but it is a wholly undeserved Charge. General Assertions of this Kind are very easy. The infamous Author wantonly published his first Libel against Mr. H—n, without alledging any Defamation or other Cause whatsoever for doing it; he was now to produce a second Libel, which he could not do, and not assign some pretended Provocation: It must have appeared a great Aggravation of his Wickedness, to persecute this Family with another most malicious Libel, and not to shew some very strong Inducements to it. Defamation from their Part was therefore fixed upon as the Pretence; and this was intended to answer two Ends, one to apologize for, and excuse the Libel itself, and the other to clear the R—d from the necessary Relations Mr. H—n and his Family were obliged to make. They had a Right to defend themselves from his and his *Worthy Men's* Abuses. It was also lawful and commendable, where they saw just Cause, to lay open and explain to the Parish Mismanagements and Corruptions. Every Parishioner is affected by parochial Abuses; but this Family, moreover, had the greatest and principal Share in recovering the Trust Estates; and one of them was a Ch—w—n chosen and intrusted by the Parish to protect their common Rights: Neither was it every Parishioner that dared to incur the Resentment of the Man principally accused: These are what the Libel calls Defamations of the V—r and other worthy Men. But suppose Mr. H—n has gone further, and fallen into the common Topics of Conversation with the rest of the World, should not the V—r reflect upon his own base Ingratitude and Injustice to Mr. H—n with Regard to the Corporation Suit; that Suit, so generously carried on by him upon the Motion of the V—r? Can he use People extremely ill, and expect they shall speak

Speak well of him? Persons injured and ungratefully abused will complain and talk freely. But is this Author to write Libels against all who don't speak reverently of the V--r of N-? Is that a sufficient Authority to publish printed Libels of the most malicious Nature? If it be so, the poor Man would have abundance of Work upon his Hands; the Number of his Books would soon exceed that of his Readers.

It is one of the political Views of the Libel, to repair and exalt the Character of this same V--r. The Author, under the guise of a M---r of P---t, has, it seems, found out how that really stands, and that further Advancement and Preferment can't be had without a better Character: Hard it is, that an innocent Family must be thus abused, to give a Pretence and Opportunity to set out so much Righteousness and Excellence, and to give Origin to so many fine Encomiums of a Person, which are as undeserved as they are untrue. In this the Author has a little overshot himself; for the better to carry on the Disguise, he should have suffered his M--r of P--m--t, who ought to be supposed impartial, to have allowed some little Failures, or Oversights at least in the R--d; but that all should be so fine on that Side, and all so extremely bad on the other, was not well contrived. 'Tis said that a Man lives in an unfriendly Neighbourhood, where he is reduced to the Necessity of praising himself: What is this Neighbourhood to think of Praises, that run so counter to their own Opinions? Or what must the World think, when they find this M--r of P---t, who is the only Man in the World that speaks so highly of the V--r, is the very V---r himself?

After complaining of the *Darts of Defamation* thrown against him by Mr. H--n's Family, he would represent them to be Lyers, and People not to be credited on any Occasion; and so the World is to believe, Poor Gentleman! that he has had much Wrong done him by these untoward Neighbours. To libel others is a very improper Method to recover a lost Reputation; and alas! in this Case it is particularly unhappy. Mr. H--n's Difference with the V--r is a late thing; his refusal to be concerned for him in his second Suit against the Corporation began his Resentment, and his Son being chosen a Ch--w--n completed it. But the Character of the R--d has been always what it now is, and it is the same in all Places where he has any Concerns, tho' ever so remote from N--. If the Author indeed could make Mr. H--n believed to be a Lyar, the great Person-

ages are not then to give any Credit to his Representations ; when he talks of Riots, they are to suppose All is Peace ; and if he should tell them the R--d is supplanting their Interest, they are not to believe a Lyar, and especially a Defamer of the R--d. Vain Man ! to fancy any noble Persons would believe a villainous, anonymous Libel, supposed to come from an ungrateful Opposer, against the just Representations of a Gentleman, of whom the noble Persons have had a great many Years Experience. Mr. H--n is a Person whose Credit is not such as the Libeller would represent it to be, nor indeed such as can be affected by so clandestine an Attack ; but such as all Men will have Regard to, who know him : All the Libeller can say upon that Subject against Mr. H--n's Family can't affect their Character at N-- ; nor do we believe, indeed, that he had any such Expectation. His infamous Scurrility has been dispersed in many Places, where Mr. H--n is not known nor was ever heard of ; this makes it plain it was calculated to restore the V--r's Character, and to impose upon People at a Distance.

WE can easily see what the Libeller had in View, when he wrote what we have last cited from P. 56 of his Work ; he was prudent not to speak out, but it is necessary we should ; for the Relation of that Fact concludes with a most undeniable Testimony of Mr. H--n's strict and regular Adherence to Truth.

Mr. H---n's Refusal to be concerned for the R--d in that second Cause was such a Disparagement to it, that he was greatly enraged against him ; therefore the R--d and his Creatures from that Time endeavoured to lessen Mr. H--n's Services concerning the former Cause, which was so much supported and carried on by him and his Family. His Merit in that Affair was infinitely more than what the V--r's was ; and yet, even the excellent Ch--w--n, though he never contributed one Farthing, did not scruple in the Vestry, before Mr. H--n's Face, and the Parish, to insinuate how little the Service was that Mr. H--n had really done ; and how much more was to be ascribed to Mr. F--r, who was then dead. The R--d at this Time wanted to ingross to himself the whole Credit of that successful and well conducted Cause ; or if that could not be, by no means to leave it with Mr. H--n, who did not seem to approve his Schemes. Mr. H--n could not bear that he must neither have Money, Thanks nor Credit for his Services, and most disinterested Behaviour in the carrying
on

on of the Cause; the Injustice of depriving him of the Reputation, he was justly entitled to, of doing such great Service to the Parish, was much more provoking to him than defrauding him of his Money. He knew very well how little the R--d deserved further than that he was one of the first Movers. Upon this Mr. *H--n* in the Vestry, before the Face of the R--d, told them, that if they considered the R--d as of any great Consequence in that Suit, they were beholden to himself for his Continuance in it. And how that had been he then explained to them, as we remember, in the following Manner.

Some Time after the Bill in Ch--ry was filed, the M--y-r and Al--m--n ordered Mr. *T--lls*, their T--n-Cl--k; to write a Letter to the R--d, threatening to sue him on Account of a Sp--t--l Contract: the Letter was not so secret, but that Mr. *H--n* had heard of it. The R--d, a few Days after, sent to Mr. *H--n* to desire him to meet at a Place where they frequently conferred about the Cause: He put on a Face of dissembled Sanctity, and told Mr. *H--n*, that his Conscience was much affected on this Occasion; that several of the Al--m--n's Wives, particularly his Aunt *M--l--s*, refused to come to the S--m--t, unless he quitted that Corporation Cause. But how was he confounded at the Answer? Mr. *H--n*, having a very just Notion of the Conscience of the R--d, told him, that he had heard of a menacing Letter from the T--n Cl--k, concerning such a Living, which he did suppose might affect him. The V--r owned there was such a Letter; and upon this Mr. *H--n* gave him all the Encouragement he could, that as Matters then stood, the Al--m--n could not hurt him. But are you sure of that? says he; If they should sue me, will you defend the Cause at your Charge? Mr. *H--n*, reflecting upon the very ill Consequence his going off from the Corporation Cause might be attended with, (the principal part of the Complaint being on the V--r's Account, and Mr. *H--n*'s Family being now deeply engaged in the Expence and Event of it), did then promise him, that they would defend his Cause, if brought against him, at their Expence: Hereupon all his Apprehensions and Fears went off, and his Conscience about the S--m--t was quite appeased. This was a piece of secret History so little to the Credit of the R--d, that it was natural to suppose he would endeavour to answer to it: He never wants Readiness on these Occasions, but the want of a good Cause will disconcert the best Orators. Guilt often confounds itself, and in this Case in
a most

a most remarkable Manner turned the double Shame of falsely denying, and almost involuntarily owning the same scandalous Conduct upon the unhappy V--r. Mr. H--n having finished this Relation in the public Vestry, the R--d got up in some Confusion, and declared to the Parish upon a most Tremendous Oath, no less than *his Eternal Salvation*, that this Story was all False and a Lye : Here you see Mr. H--n was charged with Lying ; but so far was his Relation from being then disproved to his Face, that the Truth of it was presently confirmed even by the R--d himself. You will be greatly surprized at the Words the R--d spoke with his next Breath, with a piteous Look and whining Tone, *Why*, says he, *T---lls threatened to ruin me*. Many Clergymen being present did now lift up their Hands and Eyes, amazed that any Man could with one Breath deny a Fact upon his Eternal Salvation, and with the next offer an Apology for it. Truth, which is ever uniform and the same, cannot fall into such Inconsistencies. What could induce him to say the latter Words, but a hasty Reflection that Mr. H--n would certainly be credited before him ? Mr. H--n being openly in the Vestry thus charged with Lying, though he was sensible his Character was so well known, that he need not have appealed to any ; yet provoked by so much Insolence and Assurance, and seeing two Gentlemen present in the Vestry, both Attornies at Law of N--., who had been his Clerks, the one of them then and still the R--d's Attorney, Mr. H--n before the Parish asked them, as they had each lived five Years with him, if they ever knew him to tell a Lye, or if he ever put any Evasion in either of their Mouths, or any thing that was a Lye or False to excuse any Business being not done, or on any other Account whatsoever ? They both declared, Never : And Mr. H--n can safely appeal to all the Clerks, and even to all the hired Servants he has ever had, to attest the same Truth. The Libeller himself is very conscious of Mr. H--n's Veracity ; but he thinks it concerns his Cause to lessen this Gentleman's Character, and represent him as one, who has been convicted to his Face of uttering the most injurious Calumnies against worthy Men. If he alludes to any Thing of that Sort, it must be to this very Story, which he would not venture to relate : But the R--d's Denial of the Fact was no Proof that it was not true ; nor would he have gained any Credit, even if he had not contradicted himself afterwards. As to other Worthy Men, as they are called, we

I

know

know nothing of them : the Author probably means some of the R--d's Worthies, charged for their Mismanagement and Abuse of Trust.

C H A P. XII.

The Charge answered which relates to the Houses in N— let by the Ch—w--ns for the Term of one-and-thirty Years.

THE next Thing that falls in our way to answer is the Assertion in P. 45, where the Libeller truly *must inform the Reader what Mischief this Ch—w—n had still in his Heart against the Interest of the Inhabitants, and how determined he was to act against them with his usual Unfaithfulness, to the very point of the Expiration of his Office.* It is there said, that not long before the new Ch—w—ns were sworn into their Office, he took upon him to grant jointly with two others, three Leases of three Houses at N—, not for 21, but for 31 Years, not only without consulting with the Ch—w--n chosen by the Minister, whose Consent was absolutely necessary, but without consulting the Advantage of the Town, by making the most of those Houses ; which were now let at one Pound ten Shillings a Year, when many would have given at least five Pounds a Year for them. This, like all his other Assertions, carries an Appearance of Probability to People who cannot be acquainted with the Truth : but, like all the others, it vanishes into nothing as soon as that appears.

The Fact is plainly this. Mr. H—n and the two other Ch—w--ns chosen by the Parish granted *not three*, but two Leases to two several Tenants, the one at twenty-three Shillings, and the other at seven Shillings a Year : The Tenements demised by These lye contiguous, are one Estate and the Benefaction of one Donor, and were formerly given towards repairing the Church. They were leased by the defamed Ch—w—ns in June 1749 ; this was before the Visitation, and many Months before the V—r's Ch—w—ns were sworn into the Office ; and at a Time when they were actually the Ch—w--ns, and being chosen again by a clear Majority doubted not their Continuance in Office another Year. These Tenements have been always let by the Ch—w—ns for the same Term of 31 Years. But the Minister's Ch—w—n was not consulted ; a horrible Neglect ! And what was the Reason ? Why, He had long before absolutely disclaimed to act in Conjunction with these three Officers chosen by the Parish ; nay, he would collect a Part of the Rates, and act by himself ; and when the public

lic Accounts were passed, he did what was never known before, he refused to join the Whole in one Account with his fellow Ch—w—ns. It is observable that we are here told, the Consent of the Ch—w—n chosen by the Minister was absolutely necessary. Nothing is more generally true, than that the Author of a Scheme, which he has not only invented, but long cherished, has the Fondness of a Parent ; It is against Nature to part with it. Thus it is with the R—d ; Though his Project of reducing two of the Town's Ch—w—ns into S—d—m—n intirely failed, and he has himself given up that Point, yet it is not in his Power to avoid discovering the old Affection.

But the heaviest part of the Charge is, that the Interest of the Town was not consulted ; these Tenements being let at thirty Shillings, for which many would have given at least five Pounds a Year. The Truth is, that the Interest of the Town was consulted ; the Ch—w—ns did not in this Agreement abate any Rent, the Rents reserved in the preceding Leases were no more than thirty Shillings a Year, they were never remembered to have been higher, and the Lessees on the late Renewal actually refused to give more : The defamed Ch—w—ns were indeed set up to shew an Example of Frugality, but not of Oppression ; they never intended, and never will rack and oppress the poor Tenants, when they have Power to prevent it. This is hard and cruel in the highest Degree. To have put out these Lessees for a small Advance of Rent, in case any others would have given it, would have been committing a private Hardship for the Advantage of a few Shillings, which could never have been of any Use to the Parish, never felt in the Public Accounts : The Industrious in narrow Circumstances are not to be thus wantonly thrown out of their Possessions, and oppressed for the sake of what cannot be of any Consequence to the Community. The Tenant who pays twenty-three Shillings a Year entered on his Part, about eleven Years before the late Renewal, by Grant from the former Lessee, and he had expended upon it a great deal of Money ; the Fences were almost wholly renewed by him, the Stable greatly repaired, and a Barn had been built entirely from the Ground : The House itself, when these Ch—w—ns granted him his Lease, was in a ruinous tumbling Condition ; and he has since rebuilt the much greater Part of it with Brick and Tile. This has been the very Consequence of this Lease ; and now it is probable, indeed, the whole might be let for five Pounds a Year. But at

whose Expence has it been made so valuable? The Estate cannot support itself; to rebuild the Tenements, if that must be done by the Ch—w—ns, would presently exceed their Worth: Such Tenants as this then should be procured and encouraged, Men who will engage to support them; and all Owners of old Houses, where Tenants agree to do that, may well be contented with a less Rent.

But behold what Bounds the Ch—w—ns are represented to have transgressed by granting these Leases: *not only the Bounds of common Justice, but of the Laws of the Land; Ch—w—ns not being a Corporation.* How learned this Libeller is in the Laws! We don't pretend that Ch—w—ns are a Corporation or Body-politic, capable of taking Lands by Purchase; but, if time out of mind they have possessed and leased certain Lands, the Sanction of that Possession and Usage will, we suppose, give them an undoubted Right. But if they have not the Right, to whom it was originally intended, whom would this pretended Advocate for the Parish have to enjoy it now? The Heirs of the Donor? (They could not now be found out), or the Lord of the Manor? No, this is not the Thing: What then? why the V—r is indeed a Body-politic *capable of taking*, and be assured the Libel means him. Thus we shall find it in all his Accusations: Self is at the Bottom. These Houses happen to stand in the Street where the V—r lives, very near him; and doubtless, had they not been then leased, he would have had them in his own Power, or Possession. But what a sad thing it is, that they are now leased, not for twenty one, but for *thirty one Years*: What inexcusable Rogues these Ch—w—ns were. Let us by no Means have any more such Ch—w—ns, the Town is ruined if we have; an Outcry, that was made before any of these Gentlemen had been in any Office whatsoever; and consequently, had not transgressed any Bounds whatsoever; but he that made the Outcry plainly saw that Bounds would be set by such Ch—w—ns to his Encroachments.

It may not be improper here to acquaint the Reader, that these Leases were brought to Mr. H—n the T—n-Cl—k to be renewed; but, as they were not from the Corporation, nor required their Seal, the T—n-Cl—k thought another Gentleman of the Profession had as good a Right to make them as himself; and he referred the Tenants to that Gentleman, who did accordingly make them: But this was not a Circumstance fit to be taken Notice of by the Libeller;

It spoke against that Spirit of Rapacity and Interestedness with which he is so fond of charging this Family.

It is urged in this Story of the Ch—w—n Leases as a Breach even of the Decree itself, that the Ch—w—ns did not set up these Tenements to Auction. The Author expresses himself, that *as they had been given to public Uses, they ought to have been publickly offered to the best Bidder, agreeably to the Decree in similar Cases, which is, without doubt, the best Guide and Direction in the Disposal of any other Charity Estate.* But, says he, *neither the Spirit nor the Letter of the Decree could bind or influence the Actions of this Ch—w—n, &c.* How wonderfully eager and sharp-sighted is this candid Gentleman in his Pursuit of the innocent Ch—w—n? It is not enough to accuse him of what, if they were true, would be real Crimes; but he must also charge him with imaginary Breaches of his Trust. He is now reproached as violating the Decree in a thing, in which it is not at all concerned. No other than the three Greater Benefactions are comprehended in the Decree; and, consequently, it is not possible that a Trustee of any other Estate can incur the Guilt of breaking it. There have been several Lettings of the lesser Charity Estates since the Time of the Decree, but there has not been one Instance of any of them being publickly bid for, as therein directed in Regard to the others. The public-spirited V—r, since the Time of the Decree, took a Lease from the Corporation of a House and Yard situate in his own Street: But he did not pursue the *Spirit* of the Decree so far, as to recommend it to them to put the House up to Auction; yet, if we are to credit a Reflection he has cast upon that Body in the Affair of *G-ll-w-ds* Donation, or to infer any Consequence from it, they have the greatest Need to make all the Advantage they possibly and fairly can from their Estates. The House, however, was granted to the V—r, by the Corporation, in their Council-Chamber, and at his own Price. Now that we have mentioned this Lease, we may take Occasion to observe, that though the V—r is a great Enemy, and exclaims very much against granting Leases, it appears, he only means Leases to others, whom he would have his Dependants, and not Leases to himself.

The defamed Ch—w—n, whom the Libeller would represent to be, if that were possible, as bad as himself, has not in a single Instance deviated either from the Letter, or *Spirit* of the L--d Ch——r's Decree; and we are persuaded from

the known Equity of his L--d--p, that he could not but approve of the Leases under Consideration. We remember that some little time before the Commencement of the Suit against the Corporation, Proposals of Accommodation were delivered to the M-y-r; in which, amongst other Things, it was moved that the Houses in N----- should continue upon the old foot of Leases, and at the usual Rents. The Undertakers of that Suit feared, that if they should be let upon a rack Rent, and consequently not be repaired by the Tenants, they might fall into a ruinous Condition, and soon become of no Value to the Public. It may be proper in some *Cases*, and at some *Times*, publickly to let by the way of Auction; though the Decree relates not to the Estate to be offered. It has already appeared that it was the Interest of this Estate intrusted to the Ch--w--ns, as well as a Matter of Justice, to continue the old Tenants at the former Rent: And we shall now demonstrate, that this is not a fit *Time* to set any Estates up to Auction, except those comprehended in the Decree.

The Design of offering the Estates to publick Auction was undoubtedly a very good One; It was to prevent private and underhand Agreements, and to provide that the Trustees might not compliment their Friends too far, which End the Method of Auction will always answer. But we at N----- have experienced it to be open to one great Abuse; it is visible to the whole Parish that the R--d employs Setters to oppose such as do not vote for him. When a Lease expires, or a Tenant at will dies, the House is bid for according to the Decree; if the Tenant, or his Representative, be not a Person in his Interest, they are generally driven out, let their particular Merits be ever so great: Some Person who is worth nothing has private Orders to bid on, up to a most extravagant Rent, 'till the old Tenant is forced out: In this Case no Security is *bawled for* by the Trustees under the Influence of the R--d, tho' the whole Parish knows the Bidder is insufficient: For, if Security should be required, there could be none found to give it, except the R--d himself, as was done by him in the *E--rt--n* Affairs; and this is the real Ground of his Resentment and Anger for proposing Security to be given in any Case. This Bidder takes the House, not upon Lease you may be assured, but from Year to Year; he seldom comes to it, and if he does, he throws it up again at the Years End. This Humour of Bidding appears to be a vast Diversion to this R--d Gentleman;

tleman ; he laughs at and promotes it much, while every thinking Person is greatly concerned, Thus it is that the very best Intentions may be abused by designing and disingenuous Men : The honest Tenants, who would have been of Use to the Estates, by keeping them in good Condition, are turned out, because they are not Slaves to the Ambition of this One Man. The Gentlemen of the Town, desiring that all should enjoy their Houses at a reasonable and moderate Rent, do not make use of Setters for such base Purposes : Honest People in other Interests do not now care to meddle with these Houses ; they must pay high Rents, and yet can have nothing done for them in Repairs. It is very evident to all sensible People, that in a few Years, as things have been lately ordered, most of the Houses will fall into Decay. We shall give you an Instance of this Setting, which happened to be told, and so was fixed on the R—d. He sent for a Person in his Interest, who wanted neither House nor Land, to bid in the Church the next Day against an Old Man of near Four-score Years of Age ; the Family of this Old Man had built the House in which he lived : And the same Person was employed to raise a Piece of Land to Another, who gave Three Shillings a Year only, to five Pounds a Year ; the Land was not in Quantity worth above Three Shillings a Year, and was never let for more ; but it was a great Convenience to him that had it, as a back Way for Carriages. This Person readily undertook to bid for the Land ; but he boggled, and in fine absolutely refused to bid for the House against the innocent Old Man. The Cause of this Setting may be explain'd in the very Words of the Libel, P. 23. *These Two unluckily happen'd to be no Voters for the Ch—w—ns set up by the V—r, and therefore they were to be no Tenants to the Town of N—, if any Method could have been contriv'd to exclude them.* The R—d found, by the Manner in which he was refused, that the Attempt against the Old Man was too heinous, and was not to be again offered at : So the next Day, when the House was to be put up, *Here, says he, is a poor Old Man come to bid for his House, I hope no Body will bid against him.* To which a Person present, innocent of what had passed, replied, *Indeed it would be villanous.* Who was it that now put on the Mask of Hypocrisy ? As to the Piece of Land of Three Shillings, the Parish insisted that the Tenant had before taken it in the Church as best Bidder ; his own People disliked and feared a Precedent of this sort, and

so that Affair also dropped. The Person sent for by the V-r could not, it seems, refrain from mentioning this extraordinary Affair to some of his Acquaintance; and he told them that he would not have done such a Thing for a Hundred Pounds. The News of a Fact so very base and flagrant in its Nature was immediately spread: The R-d was informed of the Rumour; and a most terrible Mortification it was, to be thus laid open to the whole Parish. A Day or two after this Discovery, the Person who made it would fain have varied his Story in Relation to the Old Man; but the Company and People, to whom he had before told it, were too many, and their Credit too good, to suffer this weak Subterfuge to take Place. But before we dismiss this Story, it is not improper to inform the Reader, that many Things being to be bid for, the conscientious V-r took the Opportunity of inserting this Piece of Land in the Notice delivered by the T--n-Cl--k to the Cl--k of the Parish. All Notices (as we have before made it appear) must necessarily pass thro' the Hands of this over-bearing Man; and he in all these presumes to alter, add, or diminish, as it shall suit his interested Purposes, or his Passions, in Defiance of the Decree and of Law. But it is of a Piece with the rest of his Conduct, that while he is affecting to charge others, he is continually departing not only from the Letter, but from the very Intent and Meaning of the Decree; and this, not for the publick Good or the Improvement of the Trust, but to answer his own Ambition of Power, and other self-interested Views.

We beg leave to mention one Instance more of an exorbitant Bidding, and the fatal Consequence of it to the Charity Estates. Mr. G-d-n own'd an Inclosure, wherein there was half an Acre, which had always been considered as a Part of B--n's Estate. The Half-Acre being put up to be bid for, the shrewd Landlord, who did not want it, bid against Mr. G-d-n, a Gentleman who is not in the V--r's Interest, and took it at two Guineas a Year, which was a vast Price, being several Times the Value of it. It is proper to be observ'd, that this Landlord is the very Man who bid Mr. F--s and Mr. R--s, those excellent Tenants, out of their Farms at Ev--rt--n. The Situation, however, of the Land in Mr. G-d-n's Close was such, that he could not easily part with it, and therefore he agreed with the Landlord to take it of him at that extravagant Rent. But this Gentleman's Impatience, under a Circumstance so very disagreeable, put him upon the Thoughts how to extricate himself
out

out of this Difficulty. He therefore took Advice about the Right to the Land itself, and was told that he might contest it. Upon this, he brought an Ejectment for that, and several other Lands dependent on the same Title, and obtain'd a Verdict in his Favour. The Expences of this unfortunate Suit were likewise considerable. Thus the Reader may see, that some unhappy Consequences or other to the Charity Estates, have always followed upon the Heels of Racking and Oppression. The Examples which we have given are sufficient to prove our Observation, that this is not an eligible Time to offer Estates to Auction, which are not comprehended in the Decree: The Libeller's true Reasons for recommending this Method, are the very Reasons for which at present we disapprove it.

THE Charge in P. 47. of the Libel, that the Money of *M—s* and *B—n* was not deposited in an Iron Chest in the Treasury-Room, would come next to be considered, but that has been before spoke to in P. 67 of this Answer.

C H A P. XIII.

The defam'd Family falsely accused of Contempt and Breach of the Decree.

THE Libeller proceeds in P. 48. in the following Manner: *We must confess we are confounded, and lost in Amazement, when we reflect upon the whole Conduct of this lately deposed Ch--w--n, his F--r and B--r, this notable Triumvirate, publicly shewing on every Occasion, as little Regard to the Order of the L--d Ch--r, as they could have shewn to a Precept of the most inferior Officer, &c.* After this general Charge follows a Recapitulation of their several pretended Crimes. Every Body, who knows Mr. *H—ns*, must be confounded, and really lost in Amazement, but to hear these false and ill-grounded Stories of their slighting the Decree, a Decree obtained chiefly by their own Expence and Labour. But sorry we are, that we cannot return the Libeller's Compliment; for we are not confounded, nor in the least lost in Amazement, at reading these most infamous Invectives, when we consider either the Libel itself, or the well-known Character of its Author. Mr. *H—ns* have taken such particular Care to support, and pursue the Directions of the Decree, that even some Stories
in

in the Libel, if closely attended to, will discover it. *Who could have imagined*, says the Libeller in P. 49, *that a Decree of the L—d Ch—r, whose Name (as one of the Trustees observed in the Church) cannot be mentioned without the highest Reverence, should in so many glaring Instances be slighted?* By this Trustee we must doubtless understand the V—r; tho' it happens that we none of us remember one Word of any such Speech, nor could it be introduced on any Occasion of a Breach or Slight of his L—dsh—p's Decree by the reforming Ch—w—ns. The Observation, however, (being a very just one), whether it was made or not, appears well in the Book. But the Libeller grows very bold after this. *Who could have conceived*, says he, *that the Father of this late Ch—w—n should arrive at so high a Degree of Insolence, as to declare at a public Meeting in the Church in express Words, That he should not mind the L—d Ch—r's Decree at all? A Declaration which can be fully proved.* What can equal the Effrontery and Assurance of affirming so vile, so known a Falshood as this is? It is against the very Nature and Reason of Things, that Mr. H—n should speak in that Manner; or even that he should in any Respect slight the Decree, to procure which Himself and Family had been at such great Hazard, Expence and Labour. But this the nameless Author says *can be fully proved.* It required, indeed, some such particular Assertion, such as is scarce to be met with elsewhere in the whole Book, to gain any Credit to so improbable a Story. We have long endeavoured to recollect, if possible, any Thing that Mr. H—n could have said, capable of being construed *That he should not mind the Decree at all*; well-knowing the excellent Talent a certain Gentleman has of perverting the Nature of Words, and of getting the Hands of ignorant or bad People to attest what he writes: And we are inclin'd to suspect, that if the Charge is not an absolute Fiction, we have discovered the Foundation of it. When the Decree serves, or seems to serve, the Purposes of the R——d, he then urges it with the utmost Force, as we remember he did upon the following Occasion.

One H—G—s took a Lease for one and Twenty Years, from the M—y—r and Al—m—n, of a very poor House, in a Condition hardly above tumbling down, and necessary to be rebuilt. He was bound by the Contract to rebuild it in an handsome Manner; and in Consideration of his Expence in the doing it, a further Agreement was at the same Time indorsed on the Lease, that a new Term of One and Twen-

Years should be granted to him at the Expiration of the former. Mr. G—s laid out some Hundred Pounds in the Rebuilding the House ; and afterwards his Term and Interest in the House was conveyed to Dr. T—yl—r, who lived in it. But the Decree obtain'd in the intermediate Time ordering that future Leases should be let by the Method of Auction, this conscientious and worthy V——r urged it against renewing this building Lease. He had, indeed, in a most complaisant Letter to Dr. T—yl—r, signified his dislike to Leases in general, but he acknowledged the many equitable Circumstances of this particular Case ; and he promised him that he would concur with the Corporation in signing the new Lease : Nay, he expressly says in his Letter, that this was a Piece of Justice which he owed him. Yet such is the insuperable Aversion he has to granting Leases, that, in fine, when it came to the Point, he refused to sign, and would oppose it : And he even threatened to set the House to publick Auction, to be taken by the best Bidder. Dr. T—yl—r therefore applied to the Court of Ch——ry for Relief ; And here the R——d was the only Person that oppos'd him, which he did at his own Expence. All the Trustees (except the V——r and his Ch—w—n) appeared, and consented to the Renewal ; as did also the surviving Relator in the Cause, and the Heirs of the two others who were dead : And his L—ds—p, with great Equity and Justice, approved of the Renewal, according to the building Contract. We have here again an Instance of the unlucky Consequences which generally follow the Conduct of this ambitious Trustee. Dr. T—yl—r had designed to make great Improvements at this House, which is a Part of B——n's Estate ; so considerable, as that even a Plan of them was drawn : He only waited for the Completion of his Renewal. But during his Expectation of it, which continued a Year or two after the Expiration of his first Lease, the Dr. determined to leave N—— and settle in *London*. Thus the Improvement intended became unnecessary to him ; and the Estate, by means of this Delay, lost the Advantage of it.

Now, as this Matter had before been debated in the Vestry, it is not improbable but the Charge upon Mr. H——n the F——r, *that he should not mind the Decree at all*, might be drawn from some Argument of his relating to this particular Lease. When the Decree was urged against it, he observed that the L—d C——r's Decree was not to be considered at all in this Case ; that the Relators in that Suit
did

did not seek to overthrow any Contracts or Leases before granted by the M-y-r and Al-m-n, and therefore that the Lessees were not made Parties to the Suit ; that the Decree concerning only future Contracts, every Body enjoyed, and had still a Right to enjoy their Leases ; and that it was highly reasonable that this, in Consideration whereof a very good House was built, should also be enjoyed. This we can remember was the Effect of Mr. H—n's reasoning on this particular Occasion, tho' we do not recollect any particular Expressions which he used. If Mr. H—n did at any Time express himself in Words, which the Libeller has most wickedly perverted, we think it must have been on the Occasion we have just related ; tho' neither Truth, nor the mere Shadow of Truth, appear to have been thought necessary Ingredients in this Author's Work. It is impossible that Mr. H—n could be guilty, even in Thought, of such an insolent and audacious Contempt, much less that he should be so weak as publickly to express himself in such a Manner : The contrary of this all the Best People of the Town would attest, could they swear to a Negative ; yet we should not be greatly surprized, if an Affidavit was to be produced to prove it : For He, who could procure two Persons to certify, under their Hands, that it was but Twenty Eight Miles and *One Quarter* or thereabouts betwixt N— and * B--k in E--t, and that they were ready to make Affidavit of it, can never be in Want of Affidavit-Men. These Towns are Forty Five Miles by Computation distant from each other, the greater Part of which are *Yorkshire*, and they actually measure above three-score Miles. The Reader, who is unacquainted with the Hardiness, and enterprizing Genius of this most consciencious Gentleman, may suppose this too gross for even Probability ; but He may be assured that it is a well-known Fact, and that we shall advance nothing that is not strict and literal Truth in this Answer. This may serve to shew that there is nothing such a Man as our Antagonist will not do to gain a Point.

We readily agree with the Libeller that *this Fortrefs, raised by the L--d Ch——r for the Security of our Charity Estates, has been demolished in several Parts with a high Hand, and Breaches made wide enough for other corrupt Men to enter : But by whom has this been done ? Not by the defamed Ch--w--ns ; It is not in the Power of any Man to prove them guilty of but the least Neglect ; but the V--r and his Adherents are the People who have done it, that pretended Advocate, though in Fact, the capital Adversary against the* Rights

* A Village in the Neighbourhood of Ab—rf—th.

Rights of the Town; a Name given in the Libel to the public-spirited Ch--w--n. Iron Chests were not provided, nor was Money deposited in any Chests. The Schoolmasters and Singing Boys were defrauded of their due Salaries; Costs were refused to be paid as the Decree directs: More Money for that Purpose was raised out of the Estates than was decreed; Nay, more Money was taken than was ever subscribed: Notices settled by the Trustees in Pursuance of the Decree, were altered without any Authority: The P--sh Cl--k was terrified from publishing the requisite Notices: Tradesmens Bills and Debts were obstinately left upon the Estate undischarged: The Surplus of M--s not applied in the Manner directed by the Decree: The Tenants were insnared, oppressed, driven out, &c. &c. All these Acts were the Trophies of his Power alone. But the Impudence of this Libeller is such, that he would charge worthy Officers with the Crimes of former Trustees.

AFTER his many false Accusations, he thought it necessary to give some Expectation of a Complaint, intended to be made in Ch—ry, against such Violators of his L--d--sh-p's Decree: He repeats the menace of Suit again and again in P 55 and 67. The defamed Ch--w--n so well knows his own Uprightness and disinterested Behaviour, that he apprehends not any Danger at all from the Author's Menace: We will borrow his own Expression from P. 69. *His Actions are his Security, his Innocence is his Protection.* But these threats have no real Meaning; they are only thrown in, to give a Credit to his Libel; for nothing can be less intended than such a Complaint. The Author has a vast Stock of Malice; and, we believe, of Money also, amply sufficient wherewith to commence and prosecute a Complaint against the defamed Ch- w--n; and there is no doubt but he would have done it in this open Manner, but he wants so much as even a single Truth whereupon to ground his Bill. The natural Malice of his Temper would prompt him sufficiently to this, his Fondness for all litigious Disputes would urge him on, and indeed, if there wanted all other Motives, his avowed Hatred to this Family would alone have been sufficient Inducement to him to make good his Threatnings in this Case; but he is sensible, there will require more than the Malevolence of his Heart, and Rancour of his Imagination, to support such an Attack; and his letting it alone is sufficient Proof, that he knows he has not any of the Means for it. Had the Ch--w--n really broke any Part of the Decree, every Body must know, that a Bill in Ch—ry had been a more proper Method of Complaint

Complaint than a Libel. If these Complaints were to be brought to a Hearing before his L—dsh—p, he would quickly discern which of the Trustees had paid the most Regard and Deference to the Decree, and which had made it subservient to private and dishonest Purposes.

WE must not pass over P. 51, where the Libeller forces in the Business of the Oaths. He observes, *as the Charge of a Trustee is annexed to the Office of a N — Ch—w—n, that he is as much bound by his Oath of Office to manage the Charity Estate, as to execute any other Part of that Office, with Honesty and Fidelity*; and he thence infers, that the Ch—w—n principally defamed, *has loaded his Soul with the most heinous Guilt of Perjury*. Monstrous Reproach! The M—y—r who also takes an Oath of Office, and is particularly branded in Pages 66 and the following, and these Ch—w—ns are all of them Modest Men, Persons of Candour and Justice, who have an awful Reverence and Regard for their Oath; had they transgressed it, they could not indeed have been touched in a more sensible Part. But how could this libellous Wretch, who has himself been concerned in so many spiritual Contracts, mention an Oath without trembling?

C H A P. XIV.

Remarks on the Book of Donations; and very scandalous, unjust Reflections, upon the M—y—r and Al—m—n, clearly answered. The Gratitude of the Remarker to Mr. F—r not equal to his Commendation of that Gentleman.

THE Author in Page 53 says, *Having dispatched the Preface, we come now to the Book itself*; a wonderful Dispatch this truly! He calls his Libel in the Title Page, *Remarks on a Book entitled, An Account of the Donations to the Parish of N—*, and spends more than two Thirds of it on the Preface only, before he comes to take any Notice of the Book itself. The Author however, conscious of his fallacious Title, has in P. 1, where his Work begins, prefixed a different Title; he calls it *Remarks on the Preface to a Book, &c.* And what is still more remarkable, the R—d at one of the Vestries publicly menaced the Ch—w—n, *that he would answer his Preface*. It is natural to imagine, that

that a Preface must be vastly long, which could require so much to be said in Remarks upon it ; but on the contrary this whole Preface is contained in five Pages, whereas there are no less than fourscore in the Book of Donations itself. But to what single Instance or Assertion in that Preface has the Author of these Remarks objected ? Has he shewn in it any Inconsistence, any false Reasoning, or bad Doctrine ? Nothing of that ; *It seemed*, in his Opinion, *to be wrote with an honest View, in the main, to the Interest of the Parishioners.* What then ? His Answer to the Preface establishes the Goodness of it ; he cites one or two general Observations from it, and would from these shew the Author's unworthy Conduct not to have been regulated by his own Advice ; his avowed Intent therefore was not an Answer to the Book, but a Libel on the Man : But how sadly he has failed in that Attempt, the Reader must now be fully sensible. Several Things are advanced in the Preface, clearly with a View to the common Good of the Estates and of the Parish ; these the Remarker has not touched. The only Fault he has laid his Pen upon in the whole Preface is one little Word ; and even in this he does not attack the Sentiment, but only carps at the Expression, *to assume* UPON *himself*, instead of *to himself*, an Impropriety, if it must be allowed to be such, very small and inconsiderable. But we may be assured from hence, that, had any Mistake more material occurred, or any thing of Consequence fallen in the way of Exception, this quick-sighted Remarker could not, nor would he have passed it by.

THE Libeller having with this Alacrity and Utility *dispatched* the Donation Preface, comes next to the Work itself. He first mentions the Deeds and the Wills, by which the Donations of the three great Benefactors are conveyed. These take up no less than 48 Pages of the Donation Book, and are the Parts of real Concern to the Public, as on these their Rights and Advantages depend ; but all these pass off without one single Remark on any part of them : This must be acknowledged a strong Testimony of Faithfulness in the Transcription, and as it comes involuntarily from such an avowed Enemy, is the more to be regarded. But the Libeller must still say something : His own Heart is bad, and therefore he thinks others so ; not being able to find Fault with the Work, he calls in question the Motive of publishing these Deeds and Wills ; he cannot think it the Effect of a well-meaning and public Spirit, but must have it *to be a shew to captivate the Minds of the Vulgar, and to amuse their Eyes, whilst the Ch—w—n had a private Interest to serve by it.*

This

This is glorious Nonsense indeed ! This is the last fruitless Effort of Malice and Emnity: Where he could find no Fault, he will still believe against his very Senses that there is some.

AFTER he has thus slipt over the Deeds and Wills, which he appears glad to get rid of, the L—d C—r's Decree next presents itself to his View in the Book of Donations. The Author of that Book has prefixed to his L--dsh--p's Decree the Name of the Cause; and this seems to have given the Libeller very great Offence: He says as little to the Decree itself, as he had before done to the Deeds and Wills; he stumbles at the Threshold of the Decree, as he had done at the Preface to the Book, and catches at the Name of the Cause, upon which only he animadverts, instead of meddling with the Matter. This Name of the Cause contains the Names of the Relators or Plaintiffs, and of the Defendants, which latter were the M--y--r and Al-m-n and the V--r. But the Publication of the Defendants Names has much disturbed this Libeller. He first pretends to be an Advocate for the Corporation, and under that Disguise he abuses them very heartily. It is evident that he had no Tendernefs for the Honour and Dignity of the Corporation, for which in P. 72. he professes, in Words, to have a great Regard; but that he had two very different Meanings, the one conceal'd and the other open, the former to calumniate the Corporation, and the other to find Fault with and aggravate against the Author of the Account. He tells us in P. 54. that this Author, by specifying the Names of the M-y-r and Al-m-n, *has done what he could to hand down the Memories of them to Posterity, as of Persons charg'd with the odious Crimes of abusing their Trusts, and misapplying the public Money.* The candid Reader will see in this Instance one Mark of the deep scheming Malice of this Author; When there is nothing real for Food to his Envy, he will be at any Pains to make the Ground of his Accusations from Circumstances which prove just the Contrary. What an Occasion has he here taken to abuse the M-y-r and Al-m-n both living and dead? There is not the least Reflection, in the whole Book of Donations, upon any one of the Defendants; Misapplications are no where named in that Book. Alterations of Power are there spoken of, which have been made by the L--d Ch---r: But in what Manner are they spoken of? A Cause is assigned in the Book, and that taken from the Decree itself, that *the Charities could not be managed exactly according to the Directions*
given

given by the several Donors, by Reason of the Changes which had happened, (since the Creation of the Charities,) by Extinguishment of the Corporation mentioned in the Deeds and Wills of the Donors, and otherwise; and in Regard the Charity Estates had been increased. The Bill in Ch---y itself, on which the Cause was founded, does not charge the M-y-r and Al-m-n with any Misapplication, other than what had been done, Time out of Mind, long before any of them were born; Entertainments particularly, so common in all Corporations, were a Part of the Charge. Even the V--r himself, tho' excluded from the *Sweets of Power*, was admitted to the Sweets of those Regales. It was a Decree of Equity and Justice concerning an Estate, such as is in all or most other Causes: But prefixing the Name of the Cause was not only innocent in itself, but it was highly proper to be done; Many a Decree has been afterwards lost, and never found again for want of knowing who were Plaintiffs and Defendants. The Al-m-n now living, whose Names are inserted before the Decree, as they had no Cause to be displeased, so they have not expressed the least Dissatisfaction at their Names appearing there, neither before nor since the Publication of this Libel: The Donation Book had not been dispersed two Months, when the Author of it was unanimously, if we except the V--r, elected the R-c-rd-r. But what an unfair Comparison has the Libeller introduced on this Occasion, in saying that Mr. H---n the Ch-w--n would not be a little disturbed, if he had published his Name at length in this Famous Libel; as if the Account of Donations, extremely useful to the Parish, which happened to take Notice of the Name of a Cause, without the least Reflection, could be an Injury. If this were in itself an ill Thing, what Bad Folks must all Reporters of the Law be, who have mentioned the Names of so many Plaintiffs and Defendants in their Books? But the Libeller is mistaken even in his Comparison. Mr. H---n would have chose to have had his Name mentioned throughout, in this Libel, as abusive as it is, if the Villanous Author would also have set his own Name to it in the Title, and would have owned it as his Work.

But what a malicious Intent was it in this late Ch-w--n, to insert likewise at full Length the Name of the V---r of N--- amongst the Defendants, as if he had been involved equally with the Corporation in the Charge of Misapplications and Abuses, the Contrary whereof the Author very well knew. Certain it is the V---r could not then be involved in the

Charge of Misapplications, when he had not been admitted into his Share of the Trust. It is apparent from what has been said, that no Offence was intended against his Reverence, nor was any given; and it is strange that any Offence should be taken. The M-y-r and Al-m-n could not well be named, and the V--r, likewise a Defendant, be omitted. What then is it that he is so angry about? Is he ashamed of his Company? How came he then amongst them? The Libel tells us, *He was made a Defendant, not by Way of Charge or Impeachment, but with his own Consent, and by Way of Assistance to the Parishioners.* We have before shewn the Truth of that Affair, and prov'd that he ought to have been a Relator, and that his being a Defendant was very expensive and disagreeable; It was his own Choice, and that for Reasons before given, tho' not very much to his Credit. If the V---r joins himself to what he calls bad Company, he must not be angry at others for finding him in it.

But the Libel goes on, *And therefore when the Cause was heard, and determined against the Corporation, the present L---d Ch---r decreed, that all the Defendants, except the Defendant W---n, should pay Costs of Suit: Nay, his L--d-sh--p was pleased to order, that the Defendant W---n should be paid his Costs; and yet this Exception and Distinction between the Defendants, so very remarkable, the Author out of his abundant Rancour has purposely omitted.* This Suggestion shews how much the Libeller is at a Loss to fix Rancour upon the late Ch--w--n, since he would pretend this to be the Effect of it. But is He not a noble Advocate for the Corporation? We have given the Reader in this Place his very Words, and shall now present him with an Explanation of them; by this he will discern the Art and Subtily of this Libeller, and will know how to judge of him in other parallel Circumstances. The Distinction, as it is stated, seems, indeed, to be a most remarkable one between the V--r and all the other Thirteen Defendants: Who would not imagine from it, that the latter were a Set of wretched, abandoned Trustees? That, as such, the L--d Ch---r had loaded them with all the Costs of Suit, and spared the Charity Estates? That the V--r, like just Lot, had vexed his righteous Soul from Day to Day with their unlawful Deeds? And that he alone, of all the Trustees, had disavowed their Proceedings, and strove against the Torrent of Corruption? That he indeed, as one of the Trustees, was made a Defendant, not by Way of Charge, but necessarily, to satisfy the Forms

of Law ? That he so vastly excelled in Fidelity and Uprightness, and all the others in Breach of Trust, as that the L-d Ch -r had decreed that He Alone should not pay Costs ; nay, that He should on the Contrary be paid his Costs, and that, even by the other Defendants ? These are the natural Conclusions to be drawn from this Libeller's Representation of the Order of the Costs : But let us come to the whole and real Fact. The Libeller's Words are, *That all the Defendants should pay Costs of Suit except the Defendant W—n, and that he should be paid his Costs.* Now, if his Intentions had not been to mislead those whom he pretends to inform, he would have varied the Expression ; *Paying Costs of Suit* implies paying the *whole* Costs. But near seven Times as much, as was decreed to be paid by the M-y-r and Al-m-n, was laid upon the Trust Estates. The Sum of Six Hundred Fifty Pounds Eighteen-Shillings and Two Pence was ordered to be paid out of the Estates of M——s and P——t, which Sum includes the Costs of Defendant W—n ; whereas the Costs to be paid by the M-y-r and Al-m-n were Ninety Nine Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Ten Pence. This latter Sum was paid by them in respect of B——n's Estate ; their Answer as to that Estate, which they claim'd, being adjudged not good. It is but Justice to them, however, to observe that it was advised and drawn up by their Council, and was believed by the Council of both Sides to be sufficient, tho' it did not appear so to the Court. The Corporation, as we have before mention'd, claimed that to be their own Estate ; and such it was thought, 'till Mr. H—n evinced it to be a Charity. Misrepresentations, and torturing of Words into Meanings which they were never intended to bear, are the Qualities in which this eminent Author shines the most conspicuously ; and such a voluntary and intended Misconstruction of the Words in this Case is all that he could advance toward the making good his Charge. The Decree has not laid any Odium at all upon them, tho' the Words of the Libeller would insinuate that it had. The Relators Costs of Suit for the two greatest Charities, and the Costs of the Defendant W—n, who, tho' a Defendant, plainly appeared by his Answer to be of the Party with the Relators, were thrown upon those Estates, and not upon the M-y-r and Al-m-n. As to the Defendant W—n, he could not be involved in any Costs ; his Answer was drawn by Mr. H—n the Solicitor for the Relators or Plaintiffs, and no Exception was taken to it. The Author of the Donation Account is very

idly charged by this Writer to have purposely omitted this Distinction about the Costs; Offence was neither given, nor intended to be given to Any, by prefixing the Defendants Names to the Cause; therefore all Distinctions became needless: And to publish how the Costs were given must have appear'd very impertinent, and could be of no Consequence to the Management of the Charity Estates, which was the sole Purpose and the only View of that Book.

The Libel stills hunts the Corporation. We are next informed of *a second Suit commenced against them by Dr. W—n, whereby he caused several Sums of Money to be distributed amongst the Poor, which before had been withheld.* O! Righteous Man! O! Wicked Corporation! to act in this flagrant Manner so soon after a L—d C——r's Decree. But it seems, when a very sufficient Answer was drawn and ready to be put in, the Time was then ripe for opening his Scheme, as we have before related it: He was not pursuing Misapplications and Abuses of Trust; The Office of an Al—m—n was vacant, he wanted to be one of them, and accordingly was elected by the Corporation, to free themselves from the Expences of another Ch——y Suit. The pretended Redress, as to Distribution of Money, alluded to in the Libel, must be explained when we come to speak of C—ll—w—ds Donation; where it will appear that every Member, except this new Al—m—n, behaved in the most fair and disinterested Manner imaginable.

And here, after these many unfair and insolent Reflections on the M—y—r and Al—m—n, we cannot but take Notice, that there was of the Al—m—n, during the first Suit, that spoke concerning the Event of it with great Indifference. Some of them were for agreeing to the Demand; but the Body did not think it proper to give up voluntarily, what had been so long, before any of them were born, applied in the same Manner, in which it had been by themselves; they were willing to wait the Directions of the C—t of Ch——ry. This is not at all chargeable upon them as a Crime: They were desirous of being once thoroughly informed of the true State of the Case; and like worthy and ingenuous Men, tho' they stood upon their Defence till the Decree determined against them, they never thought of resisting it afterwards. We believe the Al—m—n, as well old as new, would not transgress the Decree in any one Point: Several of the new junior Al—m—n were Subscribers to the Suit against the Body; and as the new Al—m—n are chose by
that

that Body only, it plainly shewed the good Temper of the old Ones. It is not to be conceived that they would presume to act against the Decree, they can indeed have no Interest to do so; much less can it be supposed that Mr. *H—n* would contribute in any Manner to overthrow his own Undertakings: besides that, the Corporation's Power in the Trust is very small. Reflections upon them have been, however, a fine Topic with the *R—d* to captivate the Vulgar. The *M—y—r* and *Al—m—n* know him too well to be in his Interest; and for this Reason a Jealousy of their Power and Inclinations is always kept up, and the Town is ruined upon all Occasions if the *R—d* gets not the whole Power into his own Hands. The Better Sort indeed see thro' his Subtilty and Hypocrisy; but it is easy to amuse the lower People with empty Noise, especially if Drink and Money are thrown into the Scale. The *R—d* likewise has himself treated many of the Magistrates, in open Vestries of the Parish, with the most indecent, insolent and audacious Language. He will constantly sign the Accounts and Orders before the *M—y—r*, which he asserts to be his Right: And he has also caused his own Name to be placed first, even before the *M—y—r*'s, in a Board lately erected in the Grammar School, on which are wrote in Golden Letters the Names of Mr. *M———s*'s Trustees. If we may compare Great Things with very Small, Is not This an *Ego & Rex meus*?

THE Reader will observe that in P. 59 the Libel, after an abundance of Commendations bestowed upon Dr. *W—n*, affords a Tribute of Praise to Mr. *H—n*'s Brother-in-law, Mr. *F—r*. This Gentleman certainly deserved great Praise for engaging in the Manner in which he did, in that Suit which we have particularly explained in the first Chapter. But this doubtless is far from being the Cause of the Libeller's Commendation. Mr. *F—r* is dead, That is one of the principal Reasons. It is a Custom we know too, amongst even common Politicians, to speak favourably of one Person of a Family or Party; this they think looks a little ingenuous, and carries something of an Appearance of Fairness, but the Design is to make the Scandal stick the faster on the Others whom they mean to defame. Bnt there is another very evident Reason, which was doubtless more cogent than all the rest. Mrs. *F—r* was in a Secret, which he was by no means inclined to see disclosed: She was able to tell the World that he had taken twenty Guineas more than he had ever subscribed: It was his Business, by any

possible means, to prevent this from coming out ; and he thought an Encomium on Mr. *F—r* would effectually keep the whole hushed and quiet.

Mr. *F—r* really did more and engaged further, than the *V—r* for his own Purpose, or any other Person, could be prevailed with to do : Yet he had not engaged at all, if Mr. *H—n* had not undertaken the Cause. And he had afterwards dropped it very early, had it not been for Mr. *H—n* and his Mother ; For the great Falling off of Subscribers, Mr. *F—r*'s deep Engagements, and the *R—d*'s Attempt to shuffle himself out of the Cause, might well make him very uneasy ; but Mr. *H—n*'s Encouragement in undertaking the Cause in that generous Manner, if it should miscarry, and Mrs. *H—n*'s not only doubling her Subscription, but giving him Money also to support it, in a great measure kept up his Spirits. His Impatience, however, which was not to be wondered at, hurried him frequently to *London*. Much indeed has been ascribed to these Journeys of Mr. *F—r*'s, which were chiefly owing to his Impatience ; insomuch, that he even would find fault with Mr. *H—n*, that he did not go to *London* as often as himself. Mr. *H—n* took three Journeys with him on purpose, when the most important Occasions of the Cause required it, which was more than he ever did in any other Cause in his Life. Mr. *H—n* had not leisure for so many *London* Journeys, nor was it at all necessary for him to go on slight Occasions. Mr. *F—r*'s Merit must be acknowledged to have been very great, but his Journeys were not so material. He was no Solicitor, and therefore could be of little other Service in these than hastening Mr. *B--t--we* the Clerk in Court. We would not pretend that this quickening a Cause, by continual Application to the Persons most immediately concerned in the expediting it, is without its Use ; but we ought at the same time to do Justice to that Gentleman, who, if Mr. *F--r* had not given himself the Trouble of all these Journeys, had certainly finished the Cause, and it had terminated just as it did ; We will not indeed say quite so soon, yet probably it would have been in a Term or two more.

But what Gratitude was due to Mr. *F—r* from the *R--d* for these his great Pains and Hazards, when all was happily accomplished ? No doubt every thing was due that he could oblige him with ; though the Reader can expect little Gratitude to be paid by a Man whom he has seen behave so very basely to Mr. *H—n*. We can assure the Reader, that the only

only Favour Mr. *F—r* ever asked of the *V—r* was to nominate him for his *Ch—w—n*, and this grateful Person now so full of his Praises absolutely denied his Request. The *V—r*'s Cousin had been nominated the *Easter* before to be his *Ch—w—n*, and he would continue him Year after Year in the Office. Mr. *F—r*, however, was elected a *Ch—w—n* by the Parish; but the *R—d* ordered his own *Ch—w—n*, who is a Brazier, to set his Hand to all Things before Mr. *F—r*, and to precede him on all Occasions, though he was a Gentleman of Fortune. This, and many other Incidents of the *R—d*'s Behaviour, and of the Behaviour of his Dependants, may appear on a slight View to amount to no more than empty Pieces of Insolence; but they know but little of this Machiavilian Spirit, who suppose he has not deeper Views than appear on the Surface. This was a Scheme aimed at no less than the keeping the Power, and the Parish Offices wholly in the Hands of his Dependants, or within the Reach of his Influence. It was never his Intent to have other than such Persons in these Offices; and this was one of the many Schemes he laid to keep all Gentlemen out of them. It was easy for him to conceive that his commanding a Brazier to precede a Man of Mr. *F—r*'s Fortune and Character would tend to make all such for the future keep out of the way of these Affronts. Mr. *F—r* had also great Difficulty, as we have formerly observed, to get his own occasional and necessary Expences allowed, tho' he was a Relator to whom the Costs were decreed to be paid. The like Orders of Precedence were also renewed to this *Ch—w—n* to sign before Mr. *H—n* and the other two Gentlemen chosen with him.

C H A P. XV.

The Charge upon the much defamed Family, viz. the Ch—w—n, his Father and Brother, that they had acted in Confederacy to defraud the Poor of the Rents of Mr. C—ll—w—d's House, clearly confuted; and the M—y—r and Al—m—n occasionally vindicated.

WE have now considered the Remarks, we should rather say the Cavils, of the Libeller upon the Author's Preface, the Deeds and Wills, and the *L—d Ch—r*'s Decree concerning the three great Benefactions. What

next offers itself for our Observation is an Account of the smaller Charities, given for the Use and common Advantage of the Parish. This Account is entitled, *An Extract from the Answer of the M-y-r and Al-m-n, &c.* It speaks of the Settlements or Bequests of several Donors, amongst whom is Mr. C-ll-g-w-d. This Donor gave three Charities, one for the Maintenance of Prayers in the Church twice a Day, another for the Use of the Poor, and a Third toward the Support of the Church-Fabric. Of these several Donors of lesser Charities, the Libeller takes Notice only of Mr. C-ll-g-w-d, and fixes upon his Charity to the Poor. His Cavil at this Part of this single Donation is the only Objection to the whole Donation-Book, which the Libeller has made against the Publisher's Veracity; and this is extremely malicious and wicked. The Libeller in P. 60 introduces it by observing, *That the Publisher has not done that Justice to the Poor which might have been expected from so conscientious a Ch-w-n and Trustee.* He then proceeds, In P. 77. *He* (the Author of the Donations) *tells us, that the M-y-r and Al-m-n by their Answer say, That A-th-y C-ll-g-w-d gave his House in St-dm-n St--t to the said M-y-r and Al-m-n forever, to the Use of the Corporation.* The Libeller after this compliments the M-y-r and Al-m-n, but in a very awkward Manner: *This we believe to be an Untruth; for we are willing to persuade ourselves, that they would not take so false an Oath, Mr. C-ll-g-w-d having left the above-mentioned House by his Will, not to the Use of the Corporation, but to the Corporation for the Use of the Poor.* He then calls upon the Publisher to vindicate himself by producing or declaring the Copy, from which he transcribed the Corporation's Answer. But with what Intent should the Publisher have endeavoured to defraud the Poor in this single Instance, and give the Rents only of this one House to the Corporation? In spite of all the Virulence of Envy, all the Misrepresentations of a Malice equal to this Author's, the World will see for themselves; they will judge of one Part of a Man's Conduct by the rest; and if the Whole be honourable, they will not swell an Error into a Crime in any one particular. This Gentleman's whole Conduct was evidently aim'd at the public Good; he pursued his Plan in the general Cause at no little Expence to himself: This was evident, and it was equally evident that an Intent to defraud that Publick of a Trifle was incompatible with such Principles and such general Conduct. The Libeller in P. 63 says, *the true Reason is well understood;* which he afterwards explains

plains in the Epitaph P. 75, *that the yearly Value of this Donation is more than sufficient to pay the Salaries both of the R-c-rd-r and T-n Cl-k.* He would seem, indeed, to compliment the M-y-r and Al-m-n; He is *willing to persuade himself* that they have some Regard to an Oath; and yet he must suppose them as base and wicked as he has represented the Ch-w-n himself, to imagine they would concur in a Fraud against the Poor, to support the Salaries of their Officers. We shall now give a very clear and satisfactory Answer to this Charge.

The Publisher of the Donation-Account intended to have given Copies of all the smaller charitable Donations. As to such of them as were mentioned in the Corporation's Answer, the Bill was dismissed upon the Plaintiffs Waver, because the Defendants the M-y-r and Al m-n had fully admitted them in their Answer. But he could not in all his Searches meet with the Deeds and Wills of the lesser Benefactors; yet he much enquired for them: He gave a List in Writing to Dr. W—n's Attorney of those which were named in that Answer, and amongst the rest of C-ll-g-w-d's Will. It is an Attribute of the Prince of Darkness that he will lead People into Sin, and afterwards upbraid them with it. But this Author, when he cannot lead People into Sin, will contrive the Means of taking from them the Instruments of being beneficial to Mankind; and then he will upbraid them with not doing that, which he had artfully deprived them of the Means of doing. Mr. H—n formerly had in his Possession a Copy of the Corporation's Answer, which admits and gives an Account of C-ll-g-w-d's and many other smaller Charities. This Copy and other Papers were several Years before delivered by him, in Pursuance of his Father's Order, which was at the Request of Dr. W—n, to one Mr. D—t, who was at that Time the Doctor's Solicitor in London: and some Months before the Publication of the Donation Account, he desired the Restoration of those Papers, of which at the same Time he gave the Dr. an exact List in Writing, but he could not be prevailed with to restore them. (We could mention many Instances of the R—d's too successful Schemes of getting Writings and Papers, which concern the Charity Estates, and the late Suit for the Recovery of them, into his Hands; but such Relations would be tedious.) The Publisher therefore, failing in these Inquiries, had no other Recourse than to an Office-Copy, now in his Possession, not of the Answer itself, but of the Decree, which (amongst other Things) recites the Answer

Answer of the Corporation : On this Recital he relied, when he gave his Account of those smaller Charities mentioned in that Answer. We readily agree that Mr. *G-l-l-g-w--d* did by his Will devise this House to the Use of the *Poor of the Corporation*, and that as the House was given, so the Corporation truly and really answered. But the Mistake, or Omission, not this Author's, was the Register's of the Court of Ch—ry, who in transcribing the Answer into the Decree omitted the Words *Poor of the*, catching his Sight upon the last *the*, when he had copied no farther than the first. The Publisher therefore could not give it otherwise than as it appeared to him by the Decree ; nor could he have the least Suspicion of a Mistake, not knowing how the Rent of that House was used to be applied. Exceptions are easy, even where the Intentions have been ever so good : No human Work can be perfect ; and we heartily wish that in every Work intended with the same honest Purpose as this was, and attacked in the same infamous and unjust Manner, the Errors or Imperfections, the Omissions or Oversights, could be as evidently explain'd to be merely such as they are in this. For the Truth of this Omission, we refer the Public to the original Decree in the Court of Ch—ry, from whence all Office-Copies are taken, where they may see that the Answer of the Corporation is imperfectly transcribed by the Register : It there says that this House in *St--dm--n St--t* was given *to the M-y-r and Al-m-n for ever to the Use of the Corporation*. Had the Publisher been favoured with a Copy of *G-l-l-g-w--d's* Will, or of the Corporation's Answer, he had not then taken it at second Hand, and followed the Register's Copy and Omission. (To whom then must we impute this Mistake ? Must it not be to him who had the Copy of the Answer from Mr. *H--n*, and would not restore it when required ?) Or, had the Publisher *advanced it with an ill Design*, surely he would not have sought, with all the Industry he did, for a Sight of those Papers which must have taken from him all Excuse. He had all the Reason in the World to believe the Deeds and Wills of these smaller Charities were ready to be produced against him upon Occasion ; and therefore he could hope for no other Fruits of *being the false Original*, than Detection and Disgrace. Besides, as the Corporation's Answer was right, and is upon Record in Ch—ry, and the Will itself in Being, these would ever determine the Right : 'twould be childish to insert such a Thing knowingly, or to fancy it could ever be Evidence.

This

This Remark upon the Book of Donations was made three Years ago; the Remark was printed in the Form of a Hand Advertisement, to be delivered to the Parishioners. The Author of this Advertisement had even at that Time determined at least, if he had not then begun, to write the Work which we are now answering: He therein speaks of publishing an Answer to the Account of Donations. This further strengthens the Observation in our Preface, in regard to the several Years, which this eminent Work has taken of the Author's Life. The Publisher of the Donation Book saw one of these Bills at the Printer's Office; but the Author of the Reflection was at that Time so conscious of the Baseness of it, that he suppressed them. Great Industry, however, was privately used to traduce the Publisher, on Account of this Mistake; which, being only an Omission of three small Words, might, for ought they knew, have been a Mistake of the Printer. We believe there have been few Pamphlets of the smallest Kind published, especially when written by Persons not accusom'd to the Business of publishing, in which an Error as great as this, an Omission of three Words, may not be found. A good-natur'd Man would have been apt, in a Book where every Thing appear'd fair and ingenuous, to have attributed such a Thing as this, rather to an Oversight of the Printer, than an intentional Misrepresentation of the Author: But Malice often serves the Cause it was meant to annoy. We owe to this violent Attack the Opportunity of clearing up this objected Passage; and, if all his Accusations be judg'd by this, the World will see at one View how little Reason, and how much Malevolence of Heart has given rise to them. The Donation Book was indeed for many Reasons a great Eye-Sore to the R—d Gentleman: It is even asserted in the Libel, that it was published with a View partly to destroy the Credit of a certain C—m—n and Trustee, tho' the Book is very modest in itself, and free from all Manner of Reflections. This Story of *C-l-l-g-w-d* and the Poor being propagated in the Parish, the Author of the Donations took a favourable Opportunity of answering it. He printed at his own Costs, while in the Office of Ch—w—n, and dispersed a Second Book amongst the Parishioners, to vindicate the Parochial Right of chusing three Ch—w—ns; which the V—r opposed, insisting that two of the three Ch—w—ns chosen by the Parish were no other than S-d-m-n. (This Dispute has been fully answered in a former Chapter.) To this Vindication, the Author subjoined the same Account

count for the Omission of these three Words, as we have now given : he acknowledged the Mistake, and shewed it to be not his own, but the Register's.

Could it be doubted but that even the Author of the Reflection himself must have been satisfied, or at least silenced, by this Answer ? But such is the extreme Malice and Rancour of his Heart, that like the deaf Adder he stoppeth his Ears to Truth. He determines to support, if possible, his former uncharitable Assertion, tho' known to be false, and contrary to the absolute Conviction of his own Mind : For, this being his only Objection to the Book remarked upon, it would have been terrible to be deprived of it : He could not part with so material a Pretence on any Account, and therefore he determined that, right or wrong, it must be supported ; the very Title of his Libel could not indeed subsist without it. We have observed in the Preface that this Title was a mere Fallacy, that the Name of the Book had little or no Connection with its Contents ; It had, indeed, no more than this.

It is not unworthy our Observation to attend to the Manner of replying used by this Author. He does not invalidate, or even attempt to contradict, the Answer which has been long since given to this Accusation ; He acts as others usually do in the like Circumstances, he forges one Fallacy to vouch for another : He has recourse to his most fertile Invention, a Source that is always at Hand to supply him with what he may want. As this former Charge could not now be named on its own Foot alone, he adds to it two very extraordinary pretended Facts ; one of which is ascribed to the Father, and the other to the Brother of the defam'd Ch--w--n. Thus he happily brings in the whole Triumvirate, as he calls them, each concurring in his proper Sphere, the one as a Publisher of the Donations, another as an Al-m-n, and a third as T--n Cl--k, to deprive the Poor of an Estate to whom it belongs, and give it to the Corporation. *These Facts*, the audacious Libeller says, *give us the strongest Reasons to conclude, that the Assertion of the late Ch--w--n in his Book about the Disposition of Mr. C--ll-g-w-d's House for the Use of the Corporation, was advanced with an ill Design.*

He first attacks the Ch-w-n's Brother, who is the T--n Cl--k, and tells us that *He always delivers a Rent Roll, which he expressly calls The Rent Roll of the Corporation Estate, every Year to the new Chamberlain, by which he is to collect their Rents : That in this Rent-Roll he has constantly taken*
particular

particular Care to insert the House of Mr. C-ll-g-w-d : That he has continued to practice this Abuse for several Years, tho' he has been frequently advertised by a Trustee to place that House in the Catalogue of the Charity Estates, &c. Thus, says he, the two B—rs appear to us to have confederated together to confirm their own Acts against the Rights of the Poor. What would an Author like this have done, if he had had Truth to support his Attacks ? Innocence itself could not have withstood him ; but a single Crime in one Member would have condemn'd the whole Family, the whole Community. This we must, however, do him the Justice to acknowledge, that no Man has ever erected so stately a Fabrick without either Foundation or Materials ; and if a fruitful Invention give a Man a Title to be called a great Writer, we do assert that no Author antient or modern deserves that Title more. Where there was but the slightest Appearance in his Favour, we see him, with all the Ease imaginable, swelling a Mite into a Camel : where there is none, he creates the Matter himself, and then works upon it.

This Charge upon the T--n Cl--k is absolutely and wholly a Fiction, and we shall answer it like all the rest by shewing the Truth. The Corporation has three Rentals, which are yearly made out by the T--n Cl--k, and delivered by him to the Chamberlain for the Rents to be collected by. One is a Rental of Mr. P----t's Estate, being one of the three great Donations comprehended in the Decree : A Second is entitled, The purchased Rental, being that of their own Estates ; And the last is entitled, A Rental of Estates purchased by the Corporation with Money, part given by H— St—es, Esq; Part by Dr. T— Wb---te, and other Part with their own Money : But that called their own Money having arisen from Charities, the Lands purchased therewith were immediately after the Decree voluntarily declared by Deed from the M-y-r and Al-m-n to be Charities. These three are the only Rentals in the Management of the Corporation. In the latter or Charity Rental, and not in that of the Corporation, are inserted two Estates, which were conveyed or devised by the Donors themselves to the Corporation for charitable Uses ; the one is This House in St--dm--n St--t given by Mr. C-ll-g-w-d, the other is B-th-y Grange given by Mr. L-l-y. These two Estates, being Charities vested in the Corporation, were therefore put in the Charity Rental ; in which Rental there are contained no other than Charity Estates. These two Estates were not distinguished

distinguished from the others by the former T--n Cl--ks: But the present T--n Cl--k, when he understood what particular Charities they were, placed against the Tenants Names the Names of *C--ll-g-w-d* and *L-l-y* in the Margin of the Charity Rental; and this he has done in the three last Rentals yearly delivered to the Chamberlain. The Libeller might with equal Justice have charged the T--n Cl--k with having aimed at depriving the Poor of *B-th-y Grange*; but it is plain the Register's Mistake, and the Libeller's fixed Resolution to support his former Scandal as to *C--ll-g-w-d's* Charity, has now brought both the F--r and B--r of the Ch--w--n into this pretended Conspiracy. At a Meeting in the Church in *January* last, Dr. *W--n* urged that *C--ll-g-w-d's* House was put into the Corporation Rental as their own Estate; but he was then told that it was not so, but that it was placed in the Charity Rental; and the late Chamberlain Mr. *B--d* assured him also that in that Rental the Name of the Donor was wrote in the Margin against the Name of the Tenant of that House. The Libeller acquaints us that the T--n C--k has practised his Part of the Abuse for several Years, in despite of frequent Admonitions. Why then was he not charged with it at the first? The Reason is obvious: the Accusation, being false, is a late Invention, intended to come in Aid of the former Charge.

THE Libeller having, as he thought, now demolished the two Brothers, at last levels at the Father; and relates the other extraordinary Fact, *which adds more and more to his Astonishment. We can assure the Reader, says he, from undoubted Authority, that no Distribution of Mr. C--ll-g-w-d's Rents is now made amongst the Poor, such Distribution having been expressly forbidden by the F--r of this late Ch-w-n, who at this very Time causes the Rents of that House to be with-held.——It is dreadful for Persons to be in Want, but doubly grievous to be in Want of their own to supply their daily Necessities. But we will say in his Commendation, that when Dr. W--n urged the Cruelty of his not suffering the Poor to receive their own Money, he did not so much as attempt to assign or avow any Reason for his inexcusable Conduct.*

If Innocence could be any Defence against the envenom'd Slander of this Writer, we should have had no Occasion for this Answer, since the Book which occasion'd it could never have appeared: But to the Credit of those abus'd in it we are to observe, that their Innocence, or their Deserving of the Publick, has been the sole Cause of the ill Treatment

Treatment they have met with in it. We are apt to believe, that it would not be easy to produce a fairer Character from any Rank of Life, than that of Mr. *H--n* the Father: But the whole Family was to be abus'd at all Events, and in any Manner. Mr. *H--n* the Father is the very Junior Al-m-n, he was chosen but three Years ago, and he has never received one Farthing from the Corporation's own or Charity Estates; he never did either direct or forbid the Distribution of *C-l-l-g-w-d's* or any other Charity Rents; nor was he ever present at any of the Meetings for distributing of Money or other Charities; all this is generally done by the M-y-r and some of the Seniors. Nor did he ever doubt the punctual and honest Distribution of the public Charities, or engage himself at all in these Concerns. The R---d talks in general about the Poor, but this is become a mere cant Word with him to amuse the common People; and their Expectations being greatly raised, but not at all answered, the Libel must excuse the R---d, and throw the pretended Blame upon Mr. *H--n*. This Gentleman never heard Dr. *W--n* name *C-l-l-g-w-d's* Rent, or object one Word to him concerning it. The last Time the R--d was in the Council-Chamber, he mentioned something in general, that Charity was with-held from the Poor, and looked at Mr. *H---n* as if he expected some Answer from him in particular. Mr. *H--n* at that Time told him, that he knew of nothing which was with-held from the Poor; and to this he seemed to say, *Very well*, and moved his Head, as tho' Mr. *H--n's* Answer was the Thing he wanted. Such are his Schemes, and such the Means he uses to get an Opportunity of saying what he chuses, not what he believes. He did not expect any regular Answer to his Question from Mr. *H--n*, he knew he was the very last Person in the Company to make it; but he intended to say something about a Conversation that pass'd between him and Mr. *H--n* on this Occasion, and he knew if he could but say any Conversation had pass'd at all, he could represent that as he pleas'd. Give him but a Meeting, and leave him to form a Conversation at it that shall answer all his Purposes. Had he at that Time named *C-l-l-g-w-d's*, or any other Charity in particular, he probably would have had an Answer from some of the senior Al-m-n about it, who were the proper People to give him an Account: But that was not for his Purpose; it was not an Answer that he wanted, but a Pretence of Accusation. Mr. *H---n* on observing this heavy Charge in the Libel, asked one of the senior Al-m-n, who best understood and

was

was most acquainted with such Matters, about the Distribution of this *C ll-g-w-d's* Charity: this Gentleman's Answer was, that *C ll-g-w-d's* and all the other Charities were distributed; the Chamberlain's Accompts were also examined, and it was found by them that the Rents and Profits of all the Charity Estates were duly applied and given. Such is the true State of the Case in regard to all his Accusations: But he never expected to be answered, and while unanswered he supposed he should be believed.

The Libel in P. 57 asserts, That *Dr. W—n* by his *second Suit commenced against the Corporation, caused several Sums of Money to be distributed amongst the Poor, which before had been with-held.* The *Dr.* did indeed frighten the Corporation with the Expence of a Suit, and thereby caused himself to be chosen an *Al-m-n*, (all which has been already fully explained); and being an *Al-m-n*, he caused the Body to vary their Method of giving *C ll-g-w-d's* and the other Charities. At a Meeting of the *M-y-r* and *Al-m-n* on the 2d of *February* 1746, at their Council-Chamber, to receive the Chamberlain's Accompt for the preceding Year, the Money in the Chamberlain's Hands amounted to the Sum of Twenty Five Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Ten Pence Half-penny. There is not any Man in the World who has a better Head than the *R——d Al-d---n* at turning the public Business to his own Advantage: He found he could by no Means get the Disposal of the Whole; but being always of a Humour to play at small Games rather than stand out, he form'd a Scheme of having his Share of it at least at his own disposal: He proposed that it should be equally divided amongst the *M-y-r* and *Al-m-n*, to be given by them severally to poor People. Some of the *Al-m-n* disliked this Proposal as an improper and unusual Manner of applying the Moneys; they would not consent, and even refused to take any Share themselves. But a Majority, viz. the *M-y-r* and seven *Al-m-n*, agreeing to a Division, received each Three Pounds Four Shillings and Ten Pence, being an eighth Part; on this Condition, however, that every one should produce at the next Corporation Meeting a List of the poor Persons amongst whom he had distributed this Money, and how much he had given to each Person. This was punctually done by all of them, except the very *Al-m-n* upon whose Motion and Request the Money was thus shared; but he could never be prevailed upon to produce his List: The Corporation therefore would never be prevailed upon to share the Money again in that Manner, which has been

a fore

a fore Grievance to him. This Distribution is what the Libeller means by his Assertion in regard to the Charity Moneys ; and, as the Money was never shared before that Year nor since, for this Reason he says it was and is withheld.

But the Libeller with all his *dreadfuls and doubly grievous* will not be able to persuade one poor Person in the Parish of N—, that any of Mr. H—n's Family would withhold a Shilling from the Poor. It is said by Writers that Murder, tho' it have no Tongue, will speak ; and the same Authors assure us, ill Deeds will rise, tho' all the Earth o'erwhelm them from Mens Eyes : What these People say of ill Actions is as true of good ones. People who feel the Advantages of the Virtues of their Benefactors, will never believe them guilty of Crimes falsely laid to their Charge : nor will all the Cunning and Sophistry of this Arch Deceiver be able to persuade the common People, that those, who they see are doing them good Actions of their own voluntary Motion, are at the same Time intending them Evil. This is eminently the Case in regard to the Family which this shameless Writer takes all this Pains to defame. They are the only Family in the Town, who have settled an Estate in Land to the Use of the Poor. This was given by Mr. H—n's Mother in her Lifetime, and settled upon Him and his Heirs by Deed, which is enrolled in Ch—ry ; the Profits were to be distributed at the Rate of Five Shillings each poor Person, yearly, in the Week before *Michaelmas* : Mr. H—n has given it duly according to the Charity ; He has yearly set down in a Book the Names of every one who has received it, and has given amongst the poor People since the Settlement of it in the Year 1737 several Hundred Crowns, which have arisen from this Charity Estate.

It is alledged in the Libel, as we have before observed, that the Rent of *C-ll-gw-d's* House is more than sufficient to pay the Salaries of the R-c-r-d-r and T---n Cl---k. It may be so or not, as things may happen : The Rent is Twelve Pounds a Year, out of which must be deducted the necessary Demands for Taxes and Repairs ; it is a large and weak House, and once cost the Corporation a Hundred Pounds to make it Tenantable ; and at this Time it wants near two Years Rent to be laid out in necessary Repairs : So that, if the Salaries were to come out of this Estate, they would be but poorly paid. The two Salaries of R-c-r-d-r and T—n Cl—k are Four Pounds a Year each. But the Rent of this House was never applied

L

to

to pay these Salaries, as the Libeller means to have it understood ; it is and always was, jointly with the other Charities in the same Rental, applied to charitable Uses. No Person of common Sense can think this little Thing worthy of any fraudulent Scheme whatsoever, to divert it from its proper Channel. But the Libeller happens to be a bad Chronologist ; he forgets that the Donation Author was not the R c-r-d-r when his Book was published. Nor did the former Advertisement of the Libeller assign any such Cause as the R-c-r-d-r's Salary.

BUT this Reflection is thrown out as a triumphant Sneer, to signify that the Corporation is so reduced, that they have not wherewithal to pay the Salaries, without trespassing upon the Charity Estates. This naturally draws on another Reflection. The Rents of the Corporation's own Estate have hitherto been sufficient to pay the Salaries of the R-c-r-d-r, T--n Cl--k and other Officers ; but, if any extraordinary Repairs or uncommon Accidents should happen, those Salaries could not be paid, for the Corporation Estates have been much reduced by the Suit. But is there to be no Relief for this ? The Corporation have the legal Estate vested in them of B-----n's Donation, and this is not appropriated by the Donor to any particular Uses, but in general to the common Weal of the Town. There is, indeed, no Relief now in Case of such a Deficiency, but by an Order of the L--d Ch-----r. They might doubtless have had that Point settled for them at the Time of the Decree, but their Answer was drawn very improperly for that Purpose. No one will say that, where there is a Corporation, Officers are not absolutely necessary, and consequently necessary for the public Weal : Both Rich and Poor in the Town could not but be concerned that their Corporation should be esteemed so low as not to be able to pay the Salaries to their Officers. And if at any Time such a Necessity should happen, an Order no Doubt might be obtained, upon an Application to the high Court of Ch----ry, for such necessary Payments to be made out of B---n's Estate.

So much, as the Libeller says, for Mr. C-ll-g-w-d's Charity.

C H A P. XVI.

*The Design of the Book of Donations further explain'd,
and vindicated.*

TH E Author of the Remarks at the Close of his Objection to that single Error in the Account of the smaller Charities, which Objection we have fully answered in the preceeding Chapter, acquaints us, *That an Account will be published of other Donations left to the Poor, which the Author of the Account of Donations has omitted; and also a Copy of the Decree, in a more full and perfect Manner than that Author has thought fit to give it.* No Man has ever all the Means in his Power which he might wish to accomplish his useful Purposes; nor are we to impute unavoidable Deficiencies to him as Faults: If we would judge like honest Men, we must examine what has been done by Comparison with the Means that there were of doing it, and the Scope and Intention of the Action. Some Things are not so full as the Publisher of the Donation Book could wish; and in some Instances, not so full as it was in his Power to make them: but if the latter regards Things in themselves not important, and the former depends on the Want of some of the necessary Means, we are not in either Case to blame, but to thank the Person who has exerted himself in our Service to the best of his Power, and in a Manner that appear'd to him the most beneficial. It has already appeared that the Donation Book contains an Account of such Charities only as are to be found in the Corporation's Answer; and the Reason of this has likewise appeared. The Author did not intentionally omit any of the Charities; He was desirous to publish as compleat an Account of them as possible, but he could not procure a Sight of the Deeds and Wills. The Charities, however, are very few and small, which did not fall within the Answer of the M-y-r and Al-m-n. We take it for granted that the Account of what he has published is exact and agreeable to Truth; otherwise we must have heard from the Remarker. The pretended M—r of P—m—t does not give us Expectations of a Republication; he speaks only of an Account of the Donations omitted: Neither does he say one Word in this Place of the Deeds and Wills of the three great Benefactors.

As to a *more full and perfect Copy of the Decree*, many Pages might have been fill'd with it at much less Trouble than they are at present ; but it did not appear to the Author that they could have been fill'd to as much Advantage : He has not spared his own Labour and Expence in any Part of the Book, where he thought they might be useful ; but he meant it not as a tiresome but interesting Account, and consequently fill'd it only with such Things as appear'd to him of the greatest Consequence. We think the Publisher has transcribed all that was necessary or useful : His Design had regard to the due Management of the Trust Estates, agreeable as well to the Decree as to the Donations : He has therefore presented us with the Decretal Part, which relates to the Management of the Estates and the Application of the Charities. To have published what precedes the Decretal Part, *viz.* A long Recital of the Bill and Answers, of the Order on the first Hearing, of the Master's Report, and the several Exceptions to that Report, would have been too tedious, and could have served no End. It might have perplexed and puzzled, but it could not render the L--d Ch---r's Orders more clear than they are expressed. We have before taken Notice, that to have printed the Orders concerning the Costs of Suit, would have been very foreign to the whole Design, which regarded only the future Management. But the Publisher, tho' he did not think it necessary to transcribe the Recital, yet has collected out of it what might be useful ; particularly the then present reserved Rents, and the improved Values, of each of the three Estates.

There happens, indeed, to be a Mistake, which concerns the improved Value of B-----n's Estate ; It is called in the Book of Donations £. 115 : 0 : 0 a Year, whereas in the first Schedule referred to by the Master's Report it appears to be no more than £. 100 : 15 : 0. The Libeller could not avoid seeing this Mistake, but it did not suit his Purpose to remark upon it : It was on the wrong Side of the Question for him ; it would not answer his Purposes to lessen even the imaginary Value of any of the Trust Estates. Whether this Mistake was of the Publisher or Printer we know not, neither is it any Way material to know it : That it is a Mistake and merely such, is very evident ; and as a Mistake it might as easily have happened in favour of one Side as the other : but it was not all one to this calumniating Writer on which Side it fell. We find that he has overlooked it, tho' he could not but discover

discover it on the critical Review he has bestowed on this whole little Book: Finding Faults was not worth his while, unless they were such as gave him an Opportunity of raising a popular Clamour. We find him absolutely silent upon a Thing which we acknowledge to be a real Mistake; but let us now suppose the Mistake had been £. 100 : 15 : 0 for £. 115 : 0 : 0, what a Clamour should we then have had in the Libel about it? How many ill Designs would have been ascribed to it? and what Circumstances have been invented to have given a Colour to his ridiculous as well as scandalous Suggestions?

Since the Decree, Something was printed by the R—d touching our Charity Estates; he once produced it at a Vestry Meeting: It is plain a Publication of it was then intended, otherwise it had not been printed; but he afterwards altered his mind and suppressed it. From which of the Reflections this Change proceeded, Whether his Conduct or his Book would not bear the Test, we can't determine; but we cannot omit to observe, that if he had suppress'd this other Load of Scandal and Infamy, his own Character would have been sav'd by it more than that of the innocent Persons whom he has traduc'd in it. If it had been possible for him to have foreseen an Answer to it, That would certainly have prevented its Appearance; but perhaps 'tis better for the defam'd Persons as it is, and instead of lamenting his Abuse they will do well to congratulate themselves on an Opportunity of publicly explaining the Motives to all his Rancour.

C H A P. XVII.

The Necessity of the Cautions, given in the Donation-Book, against Extravagancies in Perambulation and Ch--w--n Treats, plainly demonstrated.

THE Remarker is now arrived at the Close of the Book, which he has commented upon. This consists of two Cautions to the Parish Officers, which are peculiarly adapted to the Situation and State of our Parish, and concern a prudent Saving of some Monies spent upon Perambulations, and in treating the Ch--w--ns with a Visitation Dinner.

WE have seen, upon the former Occasion, Money yearly lavished at a most extravagant Rate; tho' the Ceremony here of surrounding the Parish Bounds is in a Manner needless. We are not in Danger of Incroachments; our Bounds are not upon wide Commons, the Land is arable or Inclosure, and appropriated to a several Owner. These Considerations occasioned an Order of Vestry, that this Procession might be made not yearly, but once only in seven Years: And in Consequence of the Time of that Order being made, that of the reforming Ch—w—ns happened to be the Perambulation Year. It is thus that every Parish and every Community should regulate its own Conduct, not by the Example of its Neighbours, who may be under different Circumstances, but by its own Occasions: Many Expences may be necessary for the same Purpose in one Place, that are not at all so in another, and the Savings in these may make up for the Extraordinaries in some other Case. The Ch—w—ns were not only glad of an Opportunity of shewing that frequent Processions were unnecessary in this Parish, by going thro' all the Business of them in a compleat and regular Manner in this; but they were determin'd to shew at how moderate an Expence such Persons as had the Interests of the Parish more at Heart than their private Concerns might do this. They set an Example of Frugality. The People who attended had the usual Refreshments in the *Field* of Bread and Ale; but no *Public-House* was opened in the *Town*, which cut off Abundance of unnecessary and unjustifiable Expences. The Ch—w—ns put the Parish to no Charge on their own Account, but dined at Home; and the four Church Officers, viz. the Parish Clerk, the Sexton, and two others who clean the Church, had Two Shillings each for Ordinary and Extraordinary. The whole Charge of this Ceremony, (what was given to the Ringers, Choristers, &c. included), did not amount to Fifty Shillings; and yet there was an ample Sufficiency, and all Persons concerned were well pleased. The defamed Ch—w—n, when he afterwards published his Book of Donations, took that Opportunity of saying what was proper upon this Head of Expence; the Ch—w—ns also, when they passed their Accounts, took Care to insert particularly every Article of this Expence, to whom, how, where, &c. it was bestowed, that future Officers might be put upon their Guard, and have full Information.

THE other Caution respects the Visitation Dinners customarily provided for our Ch—w—ns. The Libeller, pretending to

o condemn Extravagancies, sets up for an Advocate in Behalf of Entertainments within *the Bounds of Reason and Moderation*. He thinks it a hard Thing that *the honest Butcher should be grudged the Sale of a Leg of Mutton, or a Loin of Veal, and the merry Alehouse-Keeper the Vending of a few Dozen of Liquor*. We see in this single Sentence an Instance of all the Artifice and Cunning of this Writer: Here's at once an Offer of saving the Parish Money, and a cajolling the Trades People in their own Way of Talking. If this was, indeed, the whole, the Expence would be but a Trifle; tho' we think Dozens of Liquor rather too much for any Four Ch—w—ns. But the Author of the Donations has, for very good Reasons, disapproved of those Dinners. Upon a Perusal of the Parish-Book, it is apparent, that in many Years formerly there was no Expence of Entertainments upon Account of the Visitation; and, when there was, that the Expence was very moderate. The Visitations seem, by that Book, to have been sometimes held at S—th—ll, or at least the Ch--w--ns of this Parish, or some of them, to have repaired to the Visitation there, to take their Oaths or deliver in their Presentments. Hence it is very probable, that the Ch--w--ns then only put the Parish to Expence, when they travelled to S—th—ll; but dined at their own Houses when the Visitation was held, we may say, at their own Doors.

It is within the last Sixty Years only that these Expences have begun to increase, but of later Years especially they have mightily gained Ground. In 1690 an Order was made in Vestry, that the Charge of our Perambulation should not exceed Fifty Shillings, nor of the Visitation-Dinner Ten Shillings. Three Years afterwards an Award was made by the Ch—r of the Diocese, which (amongst other Things) restrains these Expences: It is entered in the Parish-Book. But, notwithstanding the Vestry Order and this Award, no Bounds could be observed. The Visitation being held in the Parish has occasioned (what should appear strange) a much greater Expence, than if it had been held at a Distance. Under a Pretence of a Dinner for the Ch--w--ns, who *alone* are concerned in the Visitation, a great Feast is provided, not for them only, but also for the four Ov--f--rs, the four Church Officers, and many of their Friends and Acquaintance; and thus Pounds are expended instead of Shillings. The Two Visitation-Dinners in 1727 amounted to more than Twelve Pounds, when the firewd

Fellow, mentioned in the Libeller's Preface, was in the Office.

In the Year of the reforming Ch--w--ns there were held Three Visitations, viz. The Archbishop's, the Archdeacon's, and the Court of Correction. Now, if they had followed the Example just mentioned, they had thrown away in this one Article near Nineteen Pounds of the Parish-Money. But they determined to revive the laudable Example of some of their ancient Predecessors. A Ch--w--n-Dinner is by no Means necessary in this Place, and there is no other Method, than a total Disallowance of them, to prevent these great Abuses. They dined therefore at Home on these three Occasions, and thereby took away all Pretence of entertaining others at the Parish Charge. But these abused Ch--w--ns, tho' they would not order an Entertainment for themselves, yet gave Two Shillings to each of the Four above-mentioned Church Officers, which they might put into their Pockets, or spend any Way that was most agreeable.

IN P. 18 of the Libel there stands a most infamous Charge upon the much defamed Ch--w--n, relating to the P--th-Cl--k's Two Shillings; the Answer to which was reserved for this Place. We are almost ashamed of bestowing a Page or Two on an Article in itself so inconsiderable, and which every Reader must, of his own Discernment, have seen to be frivolous as well as malicious in the highest Degree; but as he has rais'd it into an Article of such Importance, we cannot do ourselves the Injustice to pass it over unanswered. O candid Reader, if there had really been any Thing faulty in the Conduct of this defam'd Family; if they had at any Time, or in any single Instance, misapplied the public Money, or injur'd those whom their Office rendered it their Duty to protect; what a Clamour would have been rais'd about it by a Man, whose Virulence of Temper carries him into all this opprobrious Language about the Sum of Two Shillings, who, for Want of something of Consequence, can swell such a Trifle into a Matter of such serious Importance.

The Libeller having related the Cl--k's Refusal to publish a Notice of letting the Farms at *Ev--rt--n*, he represents the Ch--w--n as having been very meanly revengeful on that Occasion. We cannot excuse ourselves from transcribing his very Words, *It may not be unseasonable in this Place, to acquaint the Reader with the Revenge taken by this Ch--w--n against the poor P--th-Cl--k, for his Refusal to*
read

read his Paper in the Church. He had been graciously pleased to allow some Money out of the public Stock to him, and three other Parish Officers, in lieu, as he expressed himself, of a Visitation-Dinner. But tho' he continued to give this Bounty to three of the above-mentioned Officers, he did not bestow the like Favour on the P--sh-Cl--k, who, as we said before, had so highly disoblged him; and yet in his public Accounts to the Parish he charges the Payment of the same Sum, as if given to him, as well as to the others: Thus he gratified his Malice against the Cl--k, by withholding from him the Money charged to be paid to him, and at the same Time gratified his Avarice by keeping it as long as he could in his own Pocket; I say as long as he could; for unluckily it happened, that one of the Trustees made a Discovery of the whole Affair, and the conscientious Ch--w--n was obliged to refund, what he had so falsely charged, &c. &c. The Account of the three Ch-w-n's chosen by the Parish (for the V--r's Ch-w-n would not join Accounts with them) was passed in July, in which was charged Eight Shillings, as given to the Four Church Officers for ordinary and extraordinary Expences at the Nov. Visitation. One almost blushes for the Man whose Meanness of Spirit has rendered it necessary for us to enter into an Explanation of such a Trifle; but the Reader will pardon our doing what he has rendered necessary, and lay the Impertinence not at our Door, but at his, whose Accusation has laid us under a Necessity of explaining it. The much-defamed Ch--w--n knowing this Sum of Eight Shillings was intended to be given, had entered it in a Book, from which he transcribed it into his Account many Months afterwards, viz. in the July following. Upon passing this Account the V--r's Ch--w--n, who is Son to the P--sh-Cl--k, said his Father had received from him Two Shillings, being his Share for the November Visitation. This Matter was not objected in the least as the Effect of any Intention in Mr. H--n to defraud the Cl--k or the Public; but appeared to the V--r's Ch--w--n himself, and all who were present at that Vestry, as it really was, a mere Accident: And the Sum was too trifling to cause either a Dispute or Reflection. Mr. H--n paid the other three, and, if he did not pay the Cl--k, this latter did not call for it; if he had asked him for it, he had received it as the others did; it was never refused. The P--sh-Cl--k very well knows that Mr. H--n was not, nor were the other Ch--w--ns, displeased at him for not reading the Notice; he always excused himself to them in a hand-

handsome Manner : They saw where the Fault lay. But the Libeller has also in this Place mistaken Times : He mentions this pretended Behaviour to the poor Cl--k, as caused by the Ch--w--n's Resentment for his Refusal to read the Notice ; now the Visitation was in the Beginning of *November*, and the Refusal to read the Notice on the *Christmas-Day* following. A purpos'd Misrepresentation of this Kind might surprize one in any other Writer ; but tho' it is plain this Author must have been very sensible of the Unfairness of it when he did it, yet when there appear so many blacker Exploits of the same Nature, such a one as this loses its Colour. To create is much greater than to apply ; and we cannot suppose it very wonderful, that a Man will skip over all Considerations of Time and Circumstances that may be tortur'd into his Favour, who, when there are no Circumstances nor any Actions at all, will create them out of his own Brain, and will set them forth as Truths, rather than want the Means of placing those in an ill Light whom he thinks it is his Interest to defame.

This trifling Objection was the only one to an Account, which was settled in the exactest Manner, and is worthy to be a Precedent to all future Ch--w--ns. Such Articles as relate to the same Subject are properly placed together, that the whole may be seen at one View : Every Thing is particularly expressed, that it may appear whether the Work, Materials, &c. are justly charged ; the Work also which was done is fully described, and in what Places. What a Wretch then must this Libeller be ? What a Loss was the Malevolence of this Man driven to ! To point so strong a Reflection, where the least Cause was not given of any : To raise *Malice, Revenge and Avarice* out of nothing ; To talk of *Conscience, a Trustee's making a Discovery of the whole Affair, refunding, &c.* upon Account of a Mistake the most innocent, trifling, and undesigned. The Libeller has advanced one Objection to the Ch--w--ns Book, and one to his Accompt ; but his Objections appear to be equally malicious and wicked.

If we may judge of the Libeller by his Work, his Averfion to a frugal Management of Parish Money is very great, and at the same Time he knows it is a most valuable Virtue. In P. 2 he promises that the Ch-w-n, whose History he is going to represent, *shall receive all the Approbation he deserves, if he does but deviate into the Execution of one faithful Part.* He seems to have had some View to this commendable

ble

ble Frugality in retrenching the Extravagancies of Parish Treats. He pretends p. 64 to condemn them equally with the Ch-w-n ; and he condemns this Ch-w-n, throughout his Libel, for the Execution of all other Parts of his Office, of which he any where takes but the least Notice. In P. 53, where he is speaking of the Ch-w-n as a Publisher, and could not avoid approving of that Part of the Book which contains the Deeds and Wills of the three great Donors, the Reader may remember we are told by him that the Author's motive was not public Spirit, but a private Interest. Now the Libeller again attacks him in the very same manner, as a Ch-w-n : He is resolved not to *deviate into one faithful Part*, in any one of the numerous Representations he has given of his Actions. This was an Expression that the Malice of this Writer's Heart urged him to make use of ; but how was the Intent of it to be supported ? Why that he left to his future Care, the Insinuation served his Purpose, and must stand. Facts are stubborn Things, and make a sort of Evidence that few People know how to get the better of ; but even Facts, when they make against this Writer, must be made to bend to his Pleasure. There was no pretending but that this C--w--n had done many Things that the Parish wou'd acknowledge Benefits to them ; but if it was impossible to annihilate these, he thought there might be found a way to take off the Merit of them. It is not the Action itself that gives the Obligation, but the Intent of the Person in the doing it : It rested upon him therefore to prove, that in all these public-spirited Actions as they appeared, the real Intent of the Ch-w-n was to serve himself, not the Parish ; and then it followed, that though every Action during his Office had served the Public, yet, while his Heart had interested Motives, he had not *deviated into one faithful Part* in all these Actions. Fine Sophistry this, but such as it is, this Work is wholly built upon it. In the Case before us, the Libellous Author could not disapprove of the Ch--w--n's, frugality, but he will not allow it to proceed from a right and worthy Cause. Under what Anxiety does the poor Man labour ! What mighty Pains does he take ! lest the Ch--w--n should be thought to have acted a disinterested Part in this his Conduct and Advice. He tells us, he had *at Heart not so much the saving of Money to the Parish, as the saving it to himself and Family.*——It is evident beyond all Contradiction, from the Conduct of this Author, that *his Proposal of good Husbandry did not arise from a Regard to*

the

the Parish.——He can never with any tolerable Face pretend, that he had the Interest of the Town at Heart. The Libeller, however, fearing that, in spite of all his Assertions, this Ch--w--n might be yet esteemed not so extremely wicked, as to be incapable of doing one good Act out of a just Motive, endeavours to deprive him as much as possible of the Praise of it. But should it be allowed, says he, that from a public Spirit, a Quality, which we have proved him to be a Stranger to, he had lessened the Expences, which the Parish usually paid at Visitations, and Possessionings, the Performance of one or two Actions, (though good in themselves, and even proceeding from a right Motive) can never wipe off the Blemish of numberless notorious Mismanagements, &c. Oh indignant Reader! He knows, he very well knows, that there was never a more worthy Set of Ch--w--ns than the Persons whom he would defame; none have more contrived to save Expences in every Article, and the Testimonies of this he knows are abundant.

BUT let us examine whether the cautionary Advice of the Ch--w--n has been pursued, or the Necessity of it evidenced, by the Conduct of succeeding Officers. At the last *Easter Visitation* a *Noble Dinner* was provided, to which about twenty People sat down. A few Dozen of *Liquor* did not serve; they had, besides Ale, many Bowls of Punch. Ten or a Dozen fresh People came in at *Supper*. And here, it happened, were present the excellent Ch--w--n and the shrewd Landlord; they were not now in Office, but they were there as Friends. They were all doubtless very merry: Much good Liquor, it seems, was spilt upon the Table; and, a Dishclout being called for, the excellent Ch--w--n, who happens by Constitution to be Humourous in his Drink, seizes one of the Ruffles of the Organist; it being of a pretty large Size, he cries out, *Here's a Dishclout*, whips it off, and rubs down the Table with it. This was a little hard upon the poor Organist; it was demolishing his Finery on his setting out, for they were of the first Ruffles he ever had. Little Circumstances often explain Actions of more Consequence; we are almost ashamed of bestowing the last three or four Lines on so trifling an Incident as this, but it serves to shew the real Condition the Company were in, better than a long Description. If indeed there cou'd want any farther Testimony of it, we might strengthen the Proof by introducing also the Mention of another of the Company, a Man not easily affected by

Liquor:

Liquor: The Person we hint at is the shrewd Landlord, who, though of no weakly Constitution, was forced to go staggering home. How these great Doings are to be coloured over at last, we are not yet in the Secret; but its plain the Endeavours to check these Feasts could not be faulty. They are really Election Jobs: An Interest is supported by them at the Public Houses; and, so far as the Parish Money goes, so far it is saved to a private Pocket. If we may quote the Example of the R——d, he would not suffer their Superiors in Dignity and Office, not even the M-y-r and Al-m-n, to have any Entertainments; for now they have none, except at their own private Expence. But these Ch--w--ns of his, and a whole Company of their Friends and Dependants, must riot two or three Times a Year at the Costs of the Parishioners, many of whom make a hard Shift with all their Industry to maintain themselves and their Families. The Author of the Libel tells us, indeed, in P. 35, where he is speaking of the Chancel, that it is now repaired out of M—s's Estate: In this Case, while the large Surplus of that Charity supplies the Place of a Ch—w—n Assessment, the poor Estate has only changed Mouths; instead of the M-y-r and Al-m-n, these Ch-w-ns are become the Capon-eaters of the Parish.

THE Donation Author concludes his two Remarks concerning the Perambulation and Visitation Treats with a general Observation, That they were given as Examples of Caution to the Parish Officers, who might save much Money in those and many other Articles by a due Management and Care of a like Kind: Upon this the Libeller in P. 72 animadvert in these very Words. *We reply, that the Facts above related, and the Observations made by way of Answer to his Book, are likewise given as Examples of Caution to the Parish Officers, that they do not tread in the Steps of so unworthy a Ch--w--n, that they do not subject themselves to the like Infamy, as this Parish Officer has; an Infamy, which will be of much longer Duration, than the Term of his Leases, though stretched to thirty-one Years.* With what malignant Venom does this Creature swell! How infamously and unjustly would he blast the worthy and unblemished Characters of innocent and well deserving Men!

Insinuations like these may serve his Purpose at a Distance, and make him a Character among those who are Strangers to the Parish, as a Man of strict Honour, and notorious Honesty: But what will those who have been so deceived think, when they are informed, that on Enquiry
nearer

nearer home, or at the Seat of the Actions themselves, they will find that these Ch-w ns were as public-spirited Men as ever undertook that Office; that to tread in their Steps, if any future Ch-w--ns can be brought to do so, is the Way to set the Parish Affairs upon a worthy Footing; that all that was possible to be done in this Respect in the Compass of one Year, was done by them; and that nothing, but the riotous and oppressive Measures taken to oppose their being rechosen into the Office, could have prevented it.

After such an Inquiry, it will be found that this infamous Author did not set out with an Intent to inform, but to mislead and deceive his Readers: What he knew, therefore, was not the Foundation of his Plan, but what the Persons who should read his Book did not know. He was content to contradict every Article of Truth, and misrepresent every Circumstance which occurred to favour his Attempt; but, while conscious of all this within, he meant to hang out to outward shew a specious Face of Innocence and Virtue: O false Appearance! O Bosom black with Guilt, and hid with Dissimulation! All that we have attempted is but to prove to others what he himself knows to be perfectly true, that the People he has made it his Business to defame deserved his Applause, and that while he invented and propagated this Collection of Scandal from his Pen, there was not a single Article of it to which his own Heart in Secret did not give the Lye.

C H A P. XVIII.

The Incredibility of the whole Libel.

IT is a very common Accident that People, who are over eager to prove Things that have no Truth in them, betray themselves into Inconsistencies by their Solicitude, and while they are attempting to do more than enough, undo all that might have served their Purposes. This is an Observation that will hold good against almost all the false Accusers who have ventured to appear, at any Time, to the Public; but it never was more notorious than in the Conduct of this wicked Defamer. He having now finished his History of pretended Facts, very justly suspects that his Veracity may be called in Question. The Trustees of the Estate given by Mr. M—s are many, viz. the M-y-r and

first Senior Al--m--n, the V--r and the four Ch--w--ns ; but, in the important Business of letting the Farms, the L--d C--r has likewise added the two next Senior Al--m--n, which, as to that Article, advances the Number of Trustees to nine. The Ev--rt--n Leases make by much the most considerable Figure in the Libel. Now he apprehended it might be asked, How it could be possible, that not only a *Majority of the Trustees*, but all of them (except the V--r and his Ch--w--n, who can be considered only as himself) should *act*, in the Manner he has represented, *jointly with Mr. H--n the Ch--w--n* in all his numberless Breaches of Trust, *in so wild, so weak, and so audacious a Manner against the plain Words of the Decree, and against their own Rights?* Never fail him in one single Instance. The Author's Consciousness of his own Guilt betrays the Improbability of his Story ; his Jealousy raises an Objection, which his utmost Ingenuity is not able to answer. A Reader of the Libel, should he swallow down every Thing which he finds there, must believe us to be a most corrupt People ; the M-y-r and Al--m--n, the Parish Officers, the Trustees of our Charity Estates, are according to his Account All (the R--d and his Ch--w--n excepted) a Set of most corrupt Men, resolved on every Occasion to sacrifice Conscience, Justice, and the Decree. And what is all this for ? Why the Author endeavours to solve it by a feigned Piece of History.

Men are afraid of their Enemies, when they know they have it in their Power to disclose Transactions which they could wish were kept Secret, and which will shew the World some ill in themselves ; but what Guard is there against an Enemy like this, who, if he has no such Thing in his Power, will invent a Story rather than want the Means that might be of Service to him. Innocence is no Guard against the envenomed Pen of such a Writer, and Virtue, instead of repelling, invites and provokes his Assaults : It is sufficient Provocation to him that any Man is better than himself ; and all that the Innocent can do to avoid the Mischief of his Scandal, is what we have done, though unwillingly, in this Treatise ; that is, Shewing him in his true Colours to the World, and so convincing them that to be slandered by him is a Mark of the Persons deserving Praise from the rest of the World.

The Author, now, discovers his great Malice against the M-y-r, singles him out, and through his Sides would strike also at the other Trustees. He forgets not to aggrava-

vate

vate against the M-y-r, with great seeming Piety, his solemn Oath of Office, and in P. 67 invents a Conversation betwixt the M-y-r and one of the Trustees, who it seems undertook to expostulate with him on this Occasion. The M-y-r answers to the Expostulations of the Trustee, *That this Ch-w-n promised to give him a Bond of Indemnification; but being told, that no Man could indemnify him for what he had done, No ! says the M-y-r, that's strange indeed. The Trustee replies, That the Ch-w-n could not indemnify him from the continual Scorns and Reproaches, which his Neighbours would cast upon him for voting away their Rights and Properties, or from Self-Condemnations and Stings of Conscience.* The Trustee then applies himself to raise in the M-y-r a Suspicion of such Bonds of Indemnification; dubious Expressions, he says, artful Limitations and Restrictions may be inserted to render them of no Force. He then advises the M-y-r not to take any such Bond, but to act with Impartiality and Integrity: After this he mentions some Breaches of Trust in which we are to suppose the M-y-r had already concurred; but not able to bear such particular Discourse, he *risés up abruptly, pretends much Business, and hurries away in Confusion; yet with a Resolution (as the Trustee then feared, and Time afterwards shewed) to be guided by this Ch-w-n, and to trust implicitly to his Indemnification; for he afterwards plunged himself, under the Influence of this Leader, into the most manifest Crimes of Injustice against the Town, with as much Confidence as if he had got an infallible Absolution for All in his Pocket.* There is a Sort of Pertness in his Manner that passes with the Injudicious for Wit; and Wit, he is well assur'd, often has been made to stand in the Place of Argument. He takes it for granted that, when People are diverted, they will never be at the Pains to consider, whether they ought to be convinced; and thus are the Characters of Persons, who are above the reach of his Malice, traduced, and made a Sacrifice to his Raillery and Mockery.

The Gentleman, who was at that Time M-y-r, is of as good a Character for Justice and Honesty as any Person whatsoever. He absolutely denies the Truth of this pretended Piece of History: He affirms that he never did, nor could say one Word to any of the Trustees that he was promised a Bond of Indemnification; he has openly declared that he never ask'd for, nor was any such Bond ever offered to be given him; and that he could not but have resented such an Offer, if any such had been made, as supposing
that

that he was about to act against the Decree, or to do some unjust Thing. If the Measures carrying on had been against the Interest of the Parish, and the above Conversation had really passed, Why did not this righteous Trustee expostulate also with all the Others? He would seem to be mighty good; and he certainly had it much at Heart to bring the rest into his own Way of thinking, and to carry his Points. The Trustees were established upon a Rock, Truth was their Security and Protection: He knew that neither the M-y-r nor any others could be expostulated with in the Manner related; and had he feigned more of these private Conversations, united Testimonies, he thought, must have bore him down.

The whole Foundation of the pretended Mismanagements, which is any where suggested in the Libel, is the private Interest of the defamed Family; the Profits of the Leases, which did not amount to Thirteen Pounds, and of a Law Suit said to be projected, which it appears was neither projected, nor, if it had been commenced, would have been undertaken by the defamed Family: But no Cause is now assign'd why the whole Body of Trustees should *plunge themselves into the most manifest Crimes of Injustice*. Bonds of Indemnification could not induce; these could only save them harmless from the Expences of justly provoked Suits. Is it possible that a Body of Men, chosen into Trust by the Magistrates and Parishioners, should determine, One and All, to commit not only One, but Many Acts of Injustice, at Different Times, and these not in Private, but in Open Day light, in the Presence and against the Rights of their Townsmen and Neighbours, assembled to be Witnesses of their Behaviour, and in Matters of great Importance to the Welfare of the Community? Is it possible that all of them should be thus obstinately and notoriously wicked, without receiving what they could esteem some Recompence for what must be the Consequence, *the Scorns and Reproaches of Neighbours, the Loss of Character, and the Stings of Conscience?* There is a most unlucky Expression in the Libel, P. 31; the Words are, *strangely prevail'd*, where the Libeller is speaking of the Influence of the defamed Ch--w--n. This would not have been a natural Expression for us to have fallen into, in relating the Prevalence of the V--r's Authority with his Colleagues in Trust: Some of them, we know, signed through Ignorance, and others through Dependence; so that there was nothing strange at all in his prevailing. But when Mr. H---n was in the Office,

M

every

vate against the M-y-r, with great seeming Piety, his solemn Oath of Office, and in P. 67 invents a Conversation betwixt the M-y-r and one of the Trustees, who it seems undertook to expostulate with him on this Occasion. The M-y-r answers to the Expostulations of the Trustee, *That this Ch-w-n promised to give him a Bond of Indemnification*; but being told, *that no Man could indemnify him for what he had done, No!* says the M-y-r, *that's strange indeed.* The Trustee replies, *That the Ch-w-n could not indemnify him from the continual Scorns and Reproaches, which his Neighbours would cast upon him for voting away their Rights and Properties, or from Self-Condemnations and Stings of Conscience.* The Trustee then applies himself to raise in the M-y-r a Suspicion of such Bonds of Indemnification; dubious Expressions, he says, artful Limitations and Restrictions may be inserted to render them of no Force. He then advises the M-y-r not to take any such Bond, but to act with Impartiality and Integrity: After this he mentions some Breaches of Trust in which we are to suppose the M-y-r had already concurred; but not able to bear such particular Discourse, he *risés up* abruptly, *pretends much Business, and hurries away in Confusion*; yet with a Resolution (as the Trustee then feared, and Time afterwards shewed) to be guided by this Ch-w-n, and to trust implicitly to his Indemnification; for he afterwards plunged himself, under the Influence of this Leader, into the most manifest Crimes of Injustice against the Town, with as much Confidence as if he had got an infallible Absolution for All in his Pocket. There is a Sort of Pertness in his Manner that passes with the Injudicious for Wit; and Wit, he is well assur'd, often has been made to stand in the Place of Argument. He takes it for granted that, when People are diverted, they will never be at the Pains to consider, whether they ought to be convinced; and thus are the Characters of Persons, who are above the reach of his Malice, traduced, and made a Sacrifice to his Raillery and Mockery.

The Gentleman, who was at that Time M-y-r, is of as good a Character for Justice and Honesty as any Person whatsoever. He absolutely denies the Truth of this pretended Piece of History: He affirms that he never did, nor could say one Word to any of the Trustees that he was promised a Bond of Indemnification; he has openly declared that he never ask'd for, nor was any such Bond ever offered to be given him; and that he could not but have resented such an Offer, if any such had been made, as supposing that

that he was about to act against the Decree, or to do some unjust Thing. If the Measures carrying on had been against the Interest of the Parish, and the above Conversation had really passed, Why did not this righteous Trustee expostulate also with all the Others? He would seem to be mighty good; and he certainly had it much at Heart to bring the rest into his own Way of thinking, and to carry his Points. The Trustees were established upon a Rock, Truth was their Security and Protection: He knew that neither the M-y-r nor any others could be expostulated with in the Manner related; and had he feigned more of these private Conversations, united Testimonies, he thought, must have bore him down.

The whole Foundation of the pretended Mismanagements, which is any where suggested in the Libel, is the private Interest of the defamed Family; the Profits of the Leases, which did not amount to Thirteen Pounds, and of a Law Suit said to be projected, which it appears was neither projected, nor, if it had been commenced, would have been undertaken by the defamed Family: But no Cause is now assign'd why the whole Body of Trustees should *plunge themselves into the most manifest Crimes of Injustice*. Bonds of Indemnification could not induce; these could only save them harmless from the Expences of justly provoked Suits. Is it possible that a Body of Men, chosen into Trust by the Magistrates and Parishioners, should determine, One and All, to commit not only One, but Many Acts of Injustice, at Different Times, and these not in Private, but in Open Day light, in the Presence and against the Rights of their Townsmen and Neighbours, assembled to be Witnesses of their Behaviour, and in Matters of great Importance to the Welfare of the Community? Is it possible that all of them should be thus obstinately and notoriously wicked, without receiving what they could esteem some Recompence for what must be the Consequence, *the Scorns and Reproaches of Neighbours, the Loss of Character, and the Stings of Conscience?* There is a most unlucky Expression in the Libel, P. 31; the Words are, *strangely prevail'd*, where the Libeller is speaking of the Influence of the defamed Ch--w--n. This would not have been a natural Expression for us to have fallen into, in relating the Prevalence of the V—r's Authority with his Colleagues in Trust: Some of them, we know, signed through Ignorance, and others through Dependence; so that there was nothing strange at all in his prevailing. But when Mr. H——n was in the Office,

M

every

every Man who was at all concerned was independent ; and the Deeds and Wills, and the Decree were all printed, and in every Body's Hands. Well therefore might the Libeller use the Expression *strangely* ; for it would have been strange indeed, if the Facts had been as he represents them, when the other Trustees had no Reward, nor could have any, for the dirty Work of promoting the Interest of the defamed Family.

But to what Rules of Policy or Craft can we reconcile, in particular, the pretended Behaviour of Mr. *H—n* the Ch—h—w—n ? If he had schemed not only to break thro' all the Orders of the Decree himself, but to lead the others, joined with him in Trust, to follow his Precepts and Example ; What could induce him to obviate his own Intentions, by printing the Book of Donations, and presenting it to every Trustee, and even to the Parishioners in general ? And at what Time ? But a few Days before the coming on of the public Accounts and Applications. 'The Remarker in P. 71 justly observes, that every Direction of the Decree seems purposely to be suited to the lowest Capacity. What Motive could the Ch—w—n have to undertake the whole Danger of Expence and Suits, to become, as he is called, *an indemnifying Engineer* ? The Donation Book itself cost him to the Amount of his Brother's Profits in the *Ev—t—n* Leases, several Times over : And in printing and dispersing the Donation Book, That to vindicate the parochial Right of chusing three Ch—w—ns, in taking Opinions, Journies, &c. to serve the Public, Mr. *H—n* expended One Hundred Pounds and upwards of his own Money. This Story therefore is not only contradicted by the *M—y—r*, a Person of extreme good Credit ; but appears from the Nature of it, as well as the whole Inveective throughout the Book, to be utterly incredible.

We shall close this Subject of the Improbability of the whole Story with another material Observation upon it. The Libeller sets out in the very Title Page of his Book with accusing the defam'd Family of Dissimulation, and impliedly upbraids them with wearing Sheep's Cloathing as a Covering for the *ravensing Wolves within*. This we are to understand as a principal Characteristic. He repeats the same Reflection in the Work itself ; He talks of the *boasted Uprightness and Impartiality* of the Ch—w—n, and bestows upon him the Epithet of *sanctified*, as a Part of his general, public Character in that Office. But, notwithstanding all this, he represents this same Person as doing ill Things

Things with a high Hand, in open Defiance of the World, and prostituting his Character, in numberless Instances, in the most public and audacious Manner imaginable. What is even a Stranger to these Affairs to believe now? Why Nothing. He finds one Part of the Writer's Accusation altogether contradicting another Part; both cannot be true: And what does he observe thro' both but the same Spirit of Malice and Defamation? What is left to think then but that, as one Part of the Charge must be false, both are so; And that he is reading, as that is really the Case, not an Accuser but a Railer, not a Man complaining of Injuries done to the Parish, but inventing Subjects of Complaint to gratify his Malice?

C H A P. XIX.

The R-c-rd--sh--p Affair, introduced in the Epitaph and misrepresented in the Postscript, particularly explained.

TH E Libeller could not take his Leave of the Author of the Donations, without giving him a very silly Commendation for observing the Places of Interment of our three Great Benefactors, and inserting their Epitaphs. But this is not without its latent Sting: It is meant to introduce something intended for Wit; and an Epitaph which presently follows for the late departed Ch--w--n, a poor dull Performance as ever drop'd from a Pen, composed of nothing but Falstiy and Stupidity. We do not wonder that he should think of an Epitaph on this Occasion, for we believe he would most gladly write the real Epitaphs of the whole Family. It might reasonably be expected that we also should write an Epitaph in return: but we do not meddle with any Thing which has not an immediate Relation to the justifying the Persons defamed, and shewing their laudable Purposes, in their misrepresented Actions, so contrary to all that forced, artful and studied Spite contained in the Libel. The Epitaph of the Libeller must extend much further than the present Subject: And if the Public shall at any Time be favoured with one for him, we hope it will be seasoned with some Wit and Humour; and not be such a heavy, dead Business as he has wrote for the abused Ch--w--n.

There is in P. 74, which precedes the Epitaph, an ob-

fcure Piece of Satire, where the Author introduces *Twenty Six Mourners* at the imaginary Funeral, which he has made such a bold Push at being witty in the describing. These *Twenty Six Mourners*, who are such *in Heart as well as Habit*, as he assures us, are brought in to figure the Situation of the Tenants of *B—n's Estate in N—*, People long subjected to the Will and arbitrary Pleasure of the *R—d*. This Mention of them is, therefore, a kind of Triumph, such as those which always attend successful Guilt, and such as do more Scandal than Honour to the Person who exerts them.

The other obscure Passage in the same Page alludes to the Subject of the first Libel, which was printed in the Compass of a single Sheet; and tho' it was mostly couched in general Charges, received a most clear and satisfactory Answer, to which we shall refer, and not trouble the Reader with it again in this Place.

THERE is not a more contemptible Sight in the World than an Author, who intends to be witty, going out of his Way to bring in what he thinks will look pretty: Our unlucky Author, being one of those whose Head, tho' tolerably good at Mischief, does not at all keep pace with his Heart on such Occasions, has recourse to this Expedient: Resolv'd to say something fine and pretty in his Epitaph, he minds not how round about a Way he takes to get at it, or what Pains he is at to get it in. He forces it into the Service; and, when it is there, determined by that Partiality which People usually shew to such of their Productions as the World holds in most Contempt, he does it particular Honour. He has inserted in the Epitaph one intire Stanza upon a Subject quite foreign to his Libel; and this he found could not be understood for want of some Explanation. The Brat is his own, tho' mishapen and deform'd; and so passionately and foolishly fond was he of this his Offspring, that he rather chose to produce it into the World as it was, than to strike off an useless and superabundant Part. He is forced therefore to subjoin a Postscript, which closes his Book, and contains a most curious Piece of History. But who could have imagined, as an Honourable Person alluded to in this Postscript was privy to the Facts, that the Libeller would have dar'd to take the same Liberty with Truth in this, as all the rest of his Stories? The most material Parts he conceals, and he invents others: he is throughout the same, and will not change. *Jer: xiii. 23.*

Can the Ethiopian change his Skin, or the Leopard his Spots?

He

He here introduces himself in the Guise of an Advocate for the Honourable Person, as he had before done for the M-y-r and Al-m-n; and he serves his L--dsh--p in the very same Manner, that is, under Pretence of Civility he abuses him.

He represents the young Nobleman, who is a Gentleman as quick sighted as any, as being the Dupe of the two Brothers, the Ch--w--n and T--n-Cl--k: They impose upon him by a Stratagem, and mere Farce. The T--n-Cl--k, in the Presence of the Corporation, with one Speech compliments his L--dsh--p with the Place of R-c-rd-r, and his Br---r, the late Ch--w--n, with another immediately takes it away from him, (telling him he was not qualified to hold the Place),—and then slips into it himself: The former cheats him of the Fees for the Instrument of the R-c-rd-rsh-p; and the latter, with an Excess of Assurance hardly to be equalled, attends the M-y-r and Al-m-n, tho' he alone was uninvited, to the Seat of the young Nobleman, whose well-known Heroick Qualities and high Birth might, one would imagine, have defended him from Invasions at Home. Pompous Attributes these; and a sounding Name, an Invasion, given to the Incident which this most heroick Author suppos'd call'd for the exerting them. The Stories which he relates in the whole Course of his Book are such, that tho' they have had some Foundation in Fact, they are so misrepresented that they become his own while he relates them. Whatever Figure this Story may have hitherto made in his Book, what will the World think of its Author, when we have in the usual Manner explain'd the Truth and Circumstances of this misrepresented Affair. The Triumphs of this Author are very violent, but like all other violent Things they are of very short Continuance.

Intelligence of the late R--cd--r's Death coming to N--, the Ch--w--n Mr. H---n, being a Barrister at Law, made Application for the Office, and had the Promises of many of the Al--m--n. There never had been any Nobleman chose R--cd--r, nor had the Office been ever acted by Deputy, under the Charter by which the Corporation acts; therefore no such Thing was thought of either by the Corporation, or by Mr. H---n. But during the Time of this Application, the V--r hinted to the Al--m--n that the Place of R--cd--r might be agreeable to the Honourable Person mentioned. Mr. H--n thereupon waited on this Nobleman, (to whose Father he has the Honour to be Depu-

tyR--cd--r in a neighbouring Corporation), and was the first that acquainted him with the Affair : He told him that he would not have a Contest with his Lordship ; but at the same Time he acquainted him with what he apprehended to be the true State of the Case, particularly, that, if he was chosen, he could not make a Deputy, as no such Power was given by the Charter. Mr. H--n the same Evening waited on the M-y-r and Al-m-n, and declined the Promises which had been made to him, that they might make an unanimous Compliment of the Office to his Lordship. The Corporation being to dine with the Honourable Person on that Occasion, he was pleased himself to invite Mr. H--n to dine with him at the same Time. But the Libeller tells us, that Mr. H--n attended, though he alone was uninvited : And, in this Author's Opinion, it was such an *Invasion* of the Nobleman's Seat, as ought to have put him upon exercising his *Heroic Qualities*. What a strange Mortal is this Libeller, to fancy a Person of Honour is to display those Qualities, and call for his Weapons, to repel a Gentleman, his Neighbour, who comes to dine with him ; even, though he should not happen to be invited, especially on so public a Day. When the Compliment was made to his Lordship by the M-y-r and Al--m--n, He Himself mentioned the Doubt concerning the making a Deputy. The R--d here interposed, and acquainted the Company, that there was nothing at all in it ; It was the constant Practice, he said, and that he had also taken the Opinion of a *Civilian* upon it, which was, that a Deputy might be appointed. He was offering to read this Opinion, but being desired to shew the Case on which it was taken, (for Opinions could not be judged of without the State of the Case), he refused to shew it ; He was then asked the *Civilian's* Name, that it might be known whose Opinion it was, but that likewise he refused to tell : After these Evasions the Opinion was put up again without being read. We have all along accused this Author of a shameful Shuffling in his Conduct ; here is an Instance of the same Kind with all the rest, and which serves to shew his Behaviour is all of a Piece. He is always fond of imposing Appearances in the Place of Reality, and he often has the Cunning to give those Appearances a fair Colour ; but when he is pressed, as he was on this Occasion, to give a fair Account, and to tell the whole of what he is so ready to offer a Part, These are always his Resolutions, and in this Maner he at once confesses his Guilt,

and

and evades an absolute Discovery. We must now borrow an Observation from this very Postscript, and apply it to the R—d; for it will fit him much better than the two Brothers for whom it was made; *Such a Farce, perhaps, was scarce ever acted before.* Mr. H—n then replied to his Lordship's Question, that his Opinion was still the same as when he waited upon him: And at length, it was concluded that an Opinion of some eminent Counsel should be taken. Mr. H—n drew up the Case, which at a Meeting of the M—y—r and Al—m—n was compared with the Words of the Charter; the V—r and his Attorney were present, the V—r desired to have the Case home with him for an Hour or two, that he might consider it, and see that all was stated fair; It was very readily delivered to him, and he returned it after some Hours without Alteration or Objection. The same Day the T—n Cl—k waited upon the honourable Person with it, and left it with him to take what Counsel's Opinion he pleased. After some Time, he sent his Steward to N—, with his Compliments to the M—y—r and Al—m—n, and told them that he declined the Office, and they were at Liberty to chuse whom they pleased; And hereupon they met, and unanimously (except the R—d) chose Mr. H—n their R—c—d—r: A Reader, indeed, of the Postscript would imagine that his L—dsh—p had resigned the Place immediately after his Acceptance of it, upon the Ch—w—n's Speech. But the Libeller, truly, *doubts whether the T—n C—k returned the Fees given to him for the Instrument of the R—c—d—rsh—p*; which, in his Opinion, *he ought to have repaid, or at least to have made an Offer to repay.* How ready is he to think meanly in this Instance both of the Honourable Person and the T—n C—k; for neither the one could offer, nor the other receive the Gratuity back again. The Libeller, it is plain, would have expected a Return of it to himself; but he is not to suppose every Body, much less Persons of Character and Honour, actuated by the same mean and mercenary Principles with himself: All this, however, is but talking of Possibilities, not Facts, and arguing in his usual way against what might have happened, not against what did happen: For it so happened that, in this Case, no Gratuity was ever given; the Time to give was not come, the R—c—d—sh—p hanging in suspense until it should appear that his L—dsh—p might appoint a Deputy. Thus every Thing was acted in a genteel Manner, both by the Honourable Person, and the two Brothers.

There was, in reality, not any the least Ground of Reflection in the whole Affair; though we are sensible that, during this Transaction, the R—d did all he possibly could to render the Honourable Person uneasy with the defamed Family. Such has been the constant Practice of this Author throughout his whole Book; in this Manner has he attempted, in every Part of it, to deceive those whom he pretends to inform.

C H A P. XX.

The Conclusion.

WE have now gone thro' the Charge laid by this unparalleled Writer against those whom he knew to be innocent of every Article of it; whom he knew, indeed, to be more than innocent, to be worthy of the Thanks of their Fellow Parishioners, in every Instance which he has produced as reflecting upon their Integrity. We have not answered these several Attacks in the Gross; but, tho' they are extended to a Multiplicity of Articles, each has been severally treated, each has been separately and distinctly answered: And we appeal to the Judgement of the Public, whether, on this fair and full State of the Case, each has not been answered to Satisfaction. We are afraid that in some particular Parts we have appeared almost tedious; but we beg those, to whose Judgment this may appear in the Light of a Fault, to call in their Candour and Indulgence in our Favour. Writers, like this Author, who have so long, and by such a Succession of shameful Actions, sacrific'd Character that they now scarce remember they ever had any, may be careless in their Treatment of so sacred a Subject; and, when they have scattered, like the Madman in the Scriptures, *Death, Fire-brands and Arrows*, may say, *Am I not in Sport*. But those, who have themselves a virtuous Reputation, will not be surpris'd that People accus'd of such monstrous Practices, while innocent of all, have been very full in explaining the misrepresented Facts, in order to set themselves in a just Light, and recover with the World that unblemished Character they have always maintained, and have never done one ill Thing, of all that are charged upon them, to injure it.

IF it should be asked, how any Person, be his Heart ever so malevolent, or his Conscience ever so corrupt, could dare to publish such a Chain of known Falsehoods, which he was sensible the Persons whom he had slandered with them could at any Time prove to be such; the Answer is plain. He knew they must be read before they could be answered: He knew much Time must intervene between that of their Publication and that of an Answer, if it should be thought necessary to give any Answer: And he suppos'd that many People would see them that never would see the Answers to them at all. He had the Boldness to assert them in such a Manner, that all, who had not an Opportunity of knowing the Truth, might believe them. He had the Consolation, by distributing them to some Persons of Rank with whom his Character at that Time stood very ill, and with whom he had many Reasons to wish it stood better, tho' not the Virtue to recover it by worthy Actions, to suppose, that his Discovery of this pretended Wickedness in others would stand in the Place of Good in himself; and would shew his own Actions to be of a contrary Kind, and his Soul untainted with the same Pollutions. We also think it extremely probable, that he flattered his Ambition with the Hopes of some immediate good Consequence from this Notable Work: He expected to impress the Minds of the Great with a favourable Opinion of him; and then it was possible they might prefer him, before they could be undeceived by our Vindication. All these good Purposes were to be served by his Charge: And as to an Answer, he certainly thought he should escape one. He could not have dared to pen so infamous a Heap of Falsehoods, under any other Security than that of not being answered. The Multiplicity of Facts as he would have them believed to be, which he has crowded together, he thought would discourage every Thought of replying to them: He naturally supposed that both his Book and his Character would be held in too much Contempt by us for an Answer; or at the worst he had the great Consolation in Regard to the last, to know that he might venture any Lengths, for that he had none to lose. We are sorry to say thus much even against an Enemy, but Truth requires it; and we would not sacrifice Truth even to serve a Friend. Our own Justification has depended on the Setting the Character of our Accuser in a true Light; but we have always done it with Reluctance, we have nowhere named his ill Actions with Pleasure.

HE, indeed, has endeavoured to blacken us by a Comparison of the Merit he attributes to others; but far be it from

us to attempt to lessen such Merit in others, which can by no Means affect our own. We wish to see every Body as much in the Interests of the Parish as ourselves : We would be glad to have every honest and just Man as well spoken of as ourselves are by the Honest and Just ; but while we speak in Favour of the Best Men, we may still observe that they may be rendered improper for particular Offices of Trust by their Connexions with others, of whose Power those Offices should be independant.

To give an Instance of this, we may mention the Affair of chusing the Ch--w--ns in this Parish : They ought to be Persons wholly independent of the V--r. If their private Connexions with him render them interested in his Favour, or capable of being bias'd by him, they may be most improper. The V---r has the Right of chusing one of the Ch--w--ns himself ; the Town's chusing the others, who are as much within his Influence as the Person he himself chuses, gives all the Power into the Hands of One, perhaps, interested, ambitious and designing Man ; and thereby overthrows all the necessary Independence and Impartiality intended by the Decree in the Execution of the Trusts.

Persons, who have private Connexions contrary to their public Offices, are always supposed to have a Kind of inevitable Bias in Favour of their Patrons or Friends ; and it is understood that their Judgement as well as their Inclination may be, even while they scarce perceive it themselves, affected by their Connexions and Dependences. This is an Objection we have had to the Gentleman celebrated in the Book of our Antagonist, as being an excellent Ch--w--n. The present V--r of N----- is a Man of very considerable Fortune, and He is his St--d : But surely this Office is too near a Relation, too strong a Connexion, not to say a Dependance on the V--r, to leave it at all proper for him to be elected on the Part of the Town. He is certainly a Person of Abilities, and but for this Obstacle might be very proper for such a Choice ; he might make an useful Ch-w-n for the Town, if he was not rendered improper by being under such an immediate Relation to the V--r. There is nothing will give us so sensible a Pleasure as praising those who have, in any Respect, been of real Service to the Parish, in whose Cause we are so honestly warm and unbiass'd ; and among those, who have deserved that Praise, we have Pleasure in pointing out this Parishioner : He deserves our Thanks, and those of every Person who wishes well to the Parish, in a very eminent Degree, on Account of the Ter-

rier Book made under his Directions. It is indeed a very excellent and judicious Performance; and it were to be hoped the proper Officers would for the future follow so good an Example, and have it renewed from Time to Time as necessary. We are not fond of Censure, as the Author of the Libel is: 'Tis always a Pain to us to use it; and we wish we could in every Instance counterbalance it with Praise.

A Writer, who misrepresents Things, or who will not stop at the inventing them to hurt the Characters of others, does not know where the Effect of his Malice may turn, and how possible it is that it may recoil even upon himself. This Writer may have misled some Persons of Worth and Virtue by his bold Assertions, and they may have gone so far as to repeat them to others as Truths: This may have passed without Suspicion 'till the Appearance of this Answer; but on such Evidence of the Falsehood of them, how must every one, who has been thus led into the repeating them, detest and abhor the Informer who has treated them with the highest of all Indignities, has made them his Accessories against the Innocent, and used them as his Instruments in propagating what he took Care they should believe, but what he himself knew to be false.

'Tis an unlucky Observation, that People who are bad in themselves, are apt to think all those they are concerned with like them, and to speak of the Actions of others, as if the Motives of them were the same with those that actuate their own. We shall not trouble the Reader with a needless Repetition of any Thing farther from his inimitable Work; but we cannot omit to appeal to his several general Reflections in Page 56, as a Proof of what we have just advanced. The candid Reader will find nothing in them that is at all applicable to us: and we must add, that those who know the defam'd Family, and know the Author of the Defamation, cannot but be sensible, that our Motto addressed to him, *Our De te Fabula*, is most happily exemplified in this very Passage; that it is justly applicable to himself, tho' as foreign as Light and Darknes from the Behaviour or Actions of those to whom he would apply it. His Bosom, indeed, is full of his own bad Actions, his own unjustifiable Motives, and the Consequences of his Perfidy and his Oppressions; and from that pregnant Source he accuses others; he talks of the unhappy Consequences of their Actions, while what he writes seems all along to be the Result of his Conviction of the Mischiefs that have attended his own bad Practices. These we may very well compare to *the Nostrums*
of

of an Empirick: The same Effrontery bears up their Author against Truth, Reason, Knowledge and Experience; and he, like them, pours or forces down the Throats of his *unfortunate Patients* what he dares to call Medicines; he persuades them that they have no sooner swallowed them, but they are restored to Health and Vigour; but the End is Death.

Like the true *Empirick*, still, however, let what will have been the Consequence of his former Mismanagements, he boasts his Success. While he is contradicting the very Letter as well as the Intent of the Decree regarding the trust Estates; while he is at once oppressing the Tenants, and injuring the Estates themselves, he boasts himself, as boldly as if he had a Right to do so, as the best Manager and Conductor of those Estates that ever was. Dr. T—yl—r had laid a Design of very great Improvements in the House he rented of B——n's Estate; but this was all frustrated by the mean Prevaricating of this Manager. What was the Consequence of bidding Mr. G—d—n out of a Land in his Close, by advancing it to a most exorbitant Price? Mr. G—d—n was provoked at the Attempt, and brought an Ejectment for the Land bid for, and for many others; by which he recovered them from B——n's Estate. Had there not been very different Managers in the relieving the Ev—rt—n Tenants, that Estate would have been by this Time dispeopled: Yet so opposite are all just Measures to his Endeavours, and to his Sense of Things, that these Measures are the Source, of a great Part of his Railing and Accusation. It is evident that the S—dw—b Estate was untenanted by the same oppressive Means, and would have continued in the desolate and useless State in which it was left at that Time, but for the earnest Endeavours and proper Care of the succeeding Ch—w—ns. The Trust-Houses in N—— also will inevitably be ruined, if these Practices of over bidding honest and well-meaning People by Setters be continued. The Tenants in Possession are absolutely discouraged from all Thoughts of Improvement. Such is the Prospect of Power monopolized by One Ambitious Man; and the Consequences are plain: But if his Purposes are served, those who follow must take care of themselves; nor does he appear to be under any Concern about the Condition in which he shall leave the Estates. We have an evident Instance of the ill Consequence of this over-bidding in the Affair of Mr. R—s of Ev—rt—n. The Intent of this Tenant was to have taken the N—

Farm on a Lease, to have put his Son into it, and built a House upon it, as he did some Years ago upon his own. A good House and Offices would also have been probably procured to be built on the *S—dw—b* Farm for forty Pounds, had it been left to prudent and honest Managers. All this was intended, but all was prevented by the Practices of this boasting Manager: Things, that would have been for the lasting good of the Parish, might answer the Purposes of other Managers, of those whom he abuses; but his own Ambition, his own Interest, and his own Power were the Objects of his Care, and to these every good to the Public has been evidently sacrificed. It would be easy to recapitulate from the Book itself a Number of Articles more, to shew that he has had the same sole End in View in all his Actions, though he has all the while boasted a Care and Concern for the public Good; But these will be sufficient.

WE hope we have in the Course of this too long Answer fully and fairly established with every candid Reader the real Value of the Book of Donations, pretended to be remarked upon by this Writer; We flatter ourselves, that we have also vindicated, from the calumniating Pen of this Remarker, the Character of the Author of that Book, and of all others who have been attacked by him. Certain we are, the Actions themselves, which he has misrepresented and libelled, were all of them Innocent, and most of them Meritorious; all disinterested, and all intended for the general Good alone: Such we know them to be, and as such we have represented them. We hope we have given the Reader the same Conviction which we have of this in our own Breasts, and we then shall Esteem ourselves happy.

THAT there is much to be done by the People in Trust and Office in this Parish, by which the Worthy and Industrious may be benefited, is certain; and the Means are easy, if the Inclination in Those in Power be found equally ready. One very plain Method of doing much of this Good would be the employing all the Charities, left to the Disposal of these Officers, to the real Relief of the honest Indigent, not to the Ease of the more Affluent who feel nothing from such trivial Alleviations. A worthy Man cannot but wish to see the Charities employ'd in public Works to help the Generality, in putting out poor Orphans to Trades as well as to School, in the encouraging Industry, in the promoting Piety by dispersing Books of Religion,

Religion, and in other such good and worthy Uses. But what Purpose is answered by applying them to alleviate the Rates? This is only easing the Rich in a trifling Manner, at the Expence of what might be made of such infinite Benefit in these other Respects.

FROM these, and from a Multitude of other Considerations, the Foundations of which appear throughout this Treatise, we would advise the R—d to decline hereafter a Thing for which he is by no Means qualified, in which his Intentions are now discover'd, and consequently in which he never can succeed any more : It would be wise as well as modest in him to forbear interesting himself any more in the Officers of the Parish : We would recommend it to him in Friendship to come to no more of the Vestry Meetings, but to mind himself the Business of his own Office, and take Care of the Souls and mend the Morals of his Parishioners by his Doctrine and Example. Let him leave to the Parishioners themselves the Choice of their own Ch--w--ns, who will certainly select such prudent Trustees, as for the future, when freed from his Dependance and Interruptions, will set Things upon a good Footing for Posterity as well as for themselves ; will let the Estates upon such Terms as will encourage the Tenants to repair the Houses and improve the Farms ; and in Consequence of this, the Estates, instead of being ruin'd by oppressive Measures, will be devolved to their Successors better than they found them : These are the rational Means of improving a public Trust.

WE shall now take our Leave of the Remarker with observing, that we have in this Treatise set him an Example of the true Method of refuting Calumnies, and clearing the Characters of Persons wrong'd : We are very certain he can have nothing to say that can invalidate the slightest Observation in this Work ; but if his turbulent and restless Spirit should lead him to write again, he must take our Method, he must proceed Step by Step, and answer Article by Article ; we have shewn the World the Fairness of this Method, and after this they will treat with a just Contempt any single Remarks and Suggestions. Truth will always support itself ; and to His Confusion we will venture to assert, that only Truth can do so.

P R E F A C E

T O T H E

B O O K of D O N A T I O N S.

THE Desire of Knowledge and Information is very natural to Mankind, but in such things especially which are of Importance for them to be acquainted with. This Inclination has of late very eminently appeared amongst us, in regard to our publick Estates; and to gratify a Disposition so much to be commended is the Design of the following Publication.

The principal Object of Mr. M—s's Charities being the Erection of his Free-Schools, he has provided in his Deed of Ordinances, that the School-masters may have Copies of the same; and to his Care in this respect it is probably owing, that we have a Copy thereof at this time. But tho' the School-masters, as such, are indeed particularly concerned in M—s's Donation, yet is it much the Interest of the Inhabitants in general to have Copies, as well of that, as of all the other Donations. The Schools properly managed are greatly for the general Benefit; besides the Advantages of Grammar and Musick amongst ourselves, distant Families may be invited to live amongst us for the sake of educating their Children. The Surplus also of M—s's Rents, after the Salaries paid, and the Repairs and other Charges disbursed, are to be applied towards the common Good.

The L—d Ch—r likewise having ordered the Accounts to be passed in the Body of the Church, has plainly shewn how necessary he conceived it, that the Parishioners should be informed of their publick Concerns:

And as the Knowledge of these their Affairs is so much desired by the Parish, all honest Men in Trust cannot but concur with them (**) herein; for, as such entertain not, nor pursue any

Views but for the publick Good, the Observation of the Parish is what of all things they would wish for; their Behaviour, the more it is examined and scrutinized, the more will it be approved of; a Reward amply sufficient to excite to Action even the most Indolent. Again, if for private Purposes the Abuse of publick Trust shall at any time be attempted, how great a Check must it needs be to such Insolence and Ambition, that a Scheme can be scarce sooner plotted than discovered? These are the Advantages proposed.

THE Deeds and Wills of the Donors are published, as well as the decretal Part of L—d C—r's Decree, otherwise, (as will plainly appear upon Perusal) the Parish had wanted much Information: For the Decree, as it refers to the Donations, must be imperfect without them; so likewise the Donations without the Decree, which has made many Alterations very useful and necessary, Alterations arising chiefly from the Improvement of the Charity Estates, and the great Changes which have been made since those Times in the Corporations intrusted.

The Deed of Feb. 21. 23 H. 8. contains all the Ordinances of Mr M—s; yet was it proper to abstract the three preceding Deeds of Feoffment mentioned in the Ordinance or Deed of Uses, not only as they contain the Names of all the Feoffees, (a Matter rather of Curiosity than of Use) but as they also set forth the Number of Messuages and Acres, the Towns where they are situate, and of what the Acres consist, whether arable, meadow, &c. And as Abstracts of the preceding, so of the Deeds also subsequent to the Ordinances of Mr. M—s are presented to publick View, which shew how the Charity Estates passed by mesne Conveyance, until at length, in the Year 1571, being the 14th of Queen Elizabeth, they were vested in the Alderman and Assistants, a Corporation created many Years after M—s's Charities. This was done in pursuance of the Founder's Will declared and repeated in his Deed of Ordinances, who therein recommends the putting of his Lands in Mortmain.

Whether the Feoffment, or any Copy thereof, is now in being, recited in Mr. B—n's Will, and of which he therein declares (**) the Uses, it is not apprehended to be material; inasmuch as the Lands and Hereditaments by him settled for the Benefit of N— are particularly mentioned in the Deeds of Conveyance to the Alderman and Assistants; Abstracts of which Deeds follow after Mr. B—n's Will. But for the greater Ease and Clearness all the Messuages and Lands situate in the

same Town are placed together, likewise in the same Street; an Exactness not very nicely observed in the Deeds themselves.

As to Mr. P—t, the Alderman and Assistants being a Corporation at the Time of making his Will, he devised his Estates immediately to them for the Purpose of his Charities.

Mr. M—s's Deed of Uses, which is in the old spelling, is taken from an ancient Copy; whereas the Wills are from Copies in the modern, or Way of spelling now used.

It was thought a Debt due to the Memory of our Great Benefactors, to render it as sacred and lasting as was possible; to this End the Places are observed of their Interment, and the Epitaphs or monumental Inscriptions are respectively added at the Close of each Donation.

For the more readily finding any Thing which may be wanted, and for the rendering every thing more observable, the Heads or short Abstracts of the principal Articles are put in the Margin against Mr. M—s's Deed of Uses, the Wills of Mr. B—n and P—t, L—d C——r's Decree, &c.

In the Donations or Ordinances of M—s and B—n, and the subsequent Conveyances of their Estates, some Difficulties seem to arise, chiefly occasioned by the Unsteadiness of those Times; in order to explain which a few Remarks are offered, and herein the Care taken for Perpetuity of their Charities is most evident, and somewhat comes necessarily to be spoken of touching our ancient Gilds.

Upon the first Hearing before L—d Ch—r T—t the Bill was dismissed (upon the Plaintiff's Waver) as to all Charities, except those of M—s, B—n, and P—t, because the M—r and Al—m—n by their Answers admitted the other Charities. So (**) much of those Answers as is necessary has therefore been abstracted, as well for general Profit and Satisfaction, as to preserve a grateful Sense of the Memory of each Donor.

HAVING premised thus much concerning the Design and Contents of the following Sheets, it may not be improper to offer somewhat to the general Consideration of the Parish.

In regard to the Management of the Charity Estates, it would be extremely unjust to discountenance the Tenants, or any Ways to ensnare them; as they support the Charities by raising the necessary Funds, it is highly reasonable they should be properly encouraged. A contrary Conduct cannot be supposed could have been agreeable to the Sentiments of the Donors. But certainly these Tenants ought, as well for the sake of good Policy, as of just Dealing, to be treated tenderly. For very seldom will the Trustees of publick Estates act with the same

N

Spirit

Spirit and Vigour as in the Management of their own : It is even become a Proverb, that Every body's Business is Nobody's Business : the Pains are the same (if not greater) but the Profits arising therefrom must be enjoyed in common. The good Condition therefore of a publick Estate may in general depend more upon the honest Principles of the Tenants, than any extraordinary Vigilance of the Trustees. Impolitick then, as well as cruel, would it be arbitrarily to put out or distress any one of the Tenants, and perhaps who may have expended much of his own Money in Building, or other Improvements.

*Now nothing can more tend to encourage than the having a settled Term of Years, especially where the Trust is in a few Hands, and most of them annually changed. In Mr. M—s's Estate, out of the seven Trustees, five are yearly Officers, viz. the M—r and four Ch—w—ns. In Mr. B—n's, of the M—r and V—r (who are first named) one of the two is every Year changed; but, in case one be absent, or both present disagree, then the senior Al—m—n and two of the Town's Ch—w—ns being called in, three of the Trustees in four, or in five at most, are annual. So if either the M—r or V—r, for the greater Safety, calls in the senior Al—m—n and Town's Ch—w—ns before they enter upon the Business; a Method very consistent with the Spirit of the Decree. The(**) V—r being in perpetual Trust, and the M—r but for one Year, the latter cannot be supposed so thoroughly versed in the Trust Affairs as the former; but his Br—r the senior Al—m—n is perpetual, as well as the V—r; Ch—w—ns also, it is well known, are frequently continued; and these latter are Officers of great Trust, elected by the Parish; the Parish for whose Benefit the Charity Estate was given.*

But another Reason for offering upon Lease is the Security which that Method may probably afford against the Attacks of Malice and Design, the public Estates, as they become untenanted, being now to be let by way of Auction. As (taking one Example for many) where the Lands put up lie within those of another Person, and are therefore not only most suitable to him, but cannot be advantageous to any one else; yet, if taken only from Year to Year, he may either lose that Convenience, or (which is worse) be raised to bid extravagantly beyond the Worth of it. Such Proceedings are indeed quite opposite to the Laws of good Neighbourhood, and consequently very far from helping the Charity Estates. The Instance taken Notice of, tho' practised but in Matters of smaller Value, yet does it much tend to weaken the Credit of, and bring the whole into dispute.

It

It is certainly a very ruinous Prospect, when (the Balance not being supported) the whole Power, which should be divided amongst several, shall be at any time usurped by One. All publick Trusts must necessarily be attended with much Trouble; what then shall be the Motive of a single Person to assume upon himself the whole Direction, of which Others are intended, and would be willing to bear their Part? It is therefore agreeable to the Interest, as well as Duty of Electors, to regard the Qualifications of all Candidates for Office, whether they be Men of known Probity and Honour, not to be biassed by Fear, Affection, or private Interest; of Capacity to manage, and willing for the publick Good to go through the Fatigues of the Trusts.

The due Discharge of that important Duty of Electors must be followed by many noble Consequences; every one be secure and quiet in his own Sphere, the Tenants may be chearful and improve the Estates, and we be happy and peaceable one with another.



REMARKS

ON A

BOOK

INTITULED, AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

DONATIONS

TO THE

PARISH of N-----k.

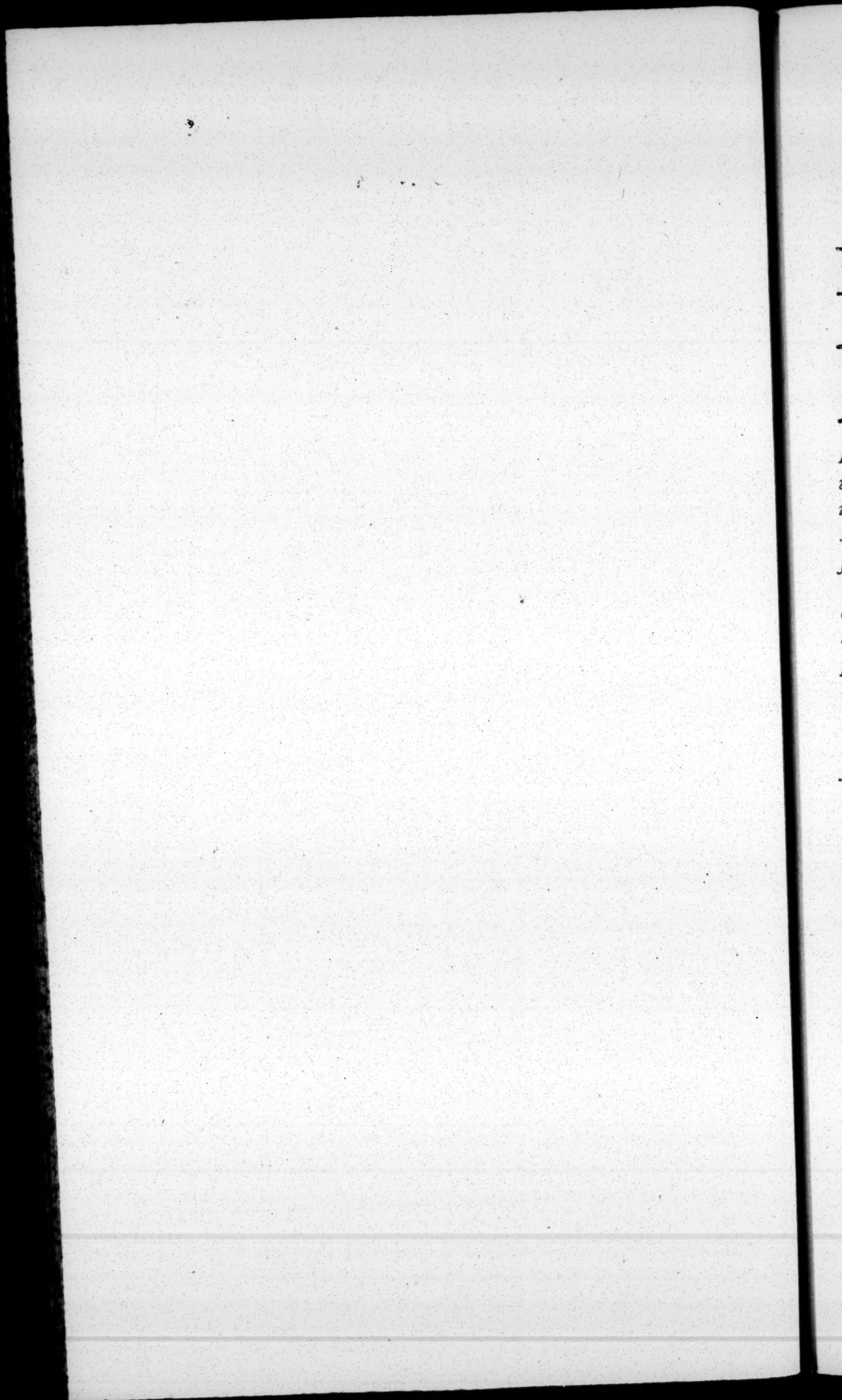
Inwardly they are ravening Wolves. Ye shall know them by their Fruits. Mat. vii. 15, 16.

But they shall proceed no farther, for their Folly, (that is, their Imposition on the Publiick) shall be made manifest unto all Men. 2 Tim. iii. 9.

*An ulla putatis
Dona carere Dolis Danaum?
Vir.*

By a M——R of P——m——t.

Printed, not for the Abuse, but the real Use, and lasting Service, of the Parishoners. M.DCC.LI.



THE P R E F A C E.

IN my passing and repassing frequently through the Town of N—k, it having been my Custom by way of Amusement, to inquire from Time to Time, what might be the most remarkable News of the Place, my Landlord, a very shrewd Fellow, in order to humour my Curiosity, some Time ago put into my Hands a Book published by one of the Ch--w--ns, and intituled, An Account of the Donations to the Parish of N—k. I immediately read the Author's Preface, which seemed in the main to be wrote with an (**) honest View to the Interest of the Parishoners, and to prepare them to expect some extraordinary Advantages, that were to accrue to them from his prudent Management of their Charity Estates, and the Application of the Produce thereof, during his Administration, and to the Extent of his Power, in the best and most frugal Manner; and the supposed Integrity of his Intentions made me the more willingly overlook, or excuse, some Inconsistencies, false Reasonings, and trifling Observations interspersed with an Air of Importance throughout the Preface. I afterwards, at my Leisure, went through the whole Book with great Care and Attention; and in a Subsequent Journey to N—k in my Way to London, I had the further Curiosity, as it was Natural, to inform myself, what this Ch--w--n, the Author of the Account of the Donations, was doing, what Schemes for the Publick Good he was carrying on, what Improvements he was making in the Charity Estates, and how far his Behaviour in his Office had answered the Expectations (§§) of the Parishoners. But here I found myself as much disappointed, as, it seems They were; for I was entertain'd with Nothing but Complaints and Invectives against him; and the more I inquired into the Particulars of his Conduct, in the worse Light it appeared. At length I had the strongest Assurances from Persons of Reputation and Knowledge in the Affairs of the Parish, that though in his Book he had represented the Right of a certain Estate to

*be vested in the M--y-r and Al--m--n for their Use, That Estate was expressly devised by the Will of the Donor to the M--y-r and Al--m--n for the Use of the Poor; as if One of his Views in publishing an Account of the Donations to the Parish had been to take away, as far as he could, a considerable Donation from the Poor Families in it; that this same Ch--w--n had been Guilty of the most flagrant Abuses of his Trust, in a Variety of Instances, openly and publicly; that he was so far influenced by private Considerations, as (in Concert with his F--r and B--r to procure the (**)) Underletting of the Charity Estates Immoderately; and that he had most Contemptuously frustrated and counter-acted the Decree of the L--d Ch---r, so well calculated for the better Regulation of those Estates, and but lately made upon a Complaint of Misapplications and Mismanagements in them. These cruel Oppressions of the Poor, and astonishing Acts of Treachery against the Rights of the Parishoners, so contrary to the Principles of an honest Trustee laid down in the Preface, excited in me a Resolution to expose his Cant and Hypocrisy, and to publish an Account of his and some of his Family's unjustifiable Transactions, agreeable to the Relations I have received of them from Persons of unquestionable Veracity, who had Opportunities of knowing those Affairs with the utmost Exactness. My chief Motive in undertaking this Task is to vindicate the Cause of the Inhabitants of N--k, and particularly the Poor, against ---an unfaithful Trustee of their Charity Estates, and to procure, if possible, an Immediate, as it is Necessary, (§§) and for the future a Regular, Application not only of the Rents of Mr. C--ll-g-w--d's House, but of other Charities, at present detained by the F--r of the Ch--w--n. As my Design is good, notwithstanding any Inaccuracies of Style, I persuade myself, that I can only be loaded with Censure by Those, who for certain Reasons may probably be the most Deserving of it; and hope, I shall not fail to receive the Approbation of every Charitable and Conscientious Reader, whom I shall now leave to the several Passions of Indignation and Compassion, which will alternately rise in him upon the Perusal of the following Sheets.*

(**) vi.

(§§) vii.

REMARKS

REMARKS
ON THE
PREFACE
TO A
BOOK, &c.

THE Author of the Preface under Examination takes no small Pains to establish this important Truth, P. 3. *That it is natural for People to desire to know, and necessary for them to be inform'd of their own Affairs.* He commends the Inhabitants of N—k for justifying this his wonderful Observation by their Desire of Knowledge and Information in Regard to their Charity Estates, and adds, *that all Honest Men in Trust cannot but concur with them herein; for as such entertain not, nor pursue any Views but for the Publick Good, the Observation of the Parish is what of all Things they would wish for; their (**) Behaviour the more it is examined and scrutinized, the more it will be approv'd of.* P. 3, 4. What is chiefly propos'd therefore by the following Sheets is, to give a plain and just Representation of some late Parish Transactions, wherein the Author of this Preface, who is a Ch—w—n, and as such, complimented by Himself with the Title of *one of the Honest Men in Trust*, may have the Pleasure to see *His Behaviour examined and scrutinized* according to his Wish, and receive all the Approbation he deserves, if he does but deviate into the Execution of one Faithful Part; and on the other Hand, that the Publick may be upon their Guard against being deceiv'd by a Multitude of empty Words; by Pretences to Openness and Fairness; by false Insinuations, and malicious Reflections.

(**) p. 2.

When the Facts are related with the proper Remarks upon them, it will not be difficult to judge, with what Design the Performance under Consideration was publish'd, whether it was with a View to the *Good* of the Parishioners by the Improvement of their Charitable Donations, or whether our Author's *Intent* was not, partly to throw Dust into the Eyes of the Parishioners, whilst his *B-----r* was employed in picking up the Gold; and partly to destroy, as much as in him lay, the Credit of a certain *C-----m-----n* and Trustee, whom, it is well known, his *F-----r* had before endeavour'd, with all possible Industry and (**) Virulence, to defame and asperse by the most gross and studied Falshoods in all Places and in all Companies; for no other Reason, than because *That Person* had oppos'd the mercenary Schemes of the Family, and laid open their unjustifiable Conduct to the Observation of the whole Parish.

Upon comparing this Preface with the Actions of the Writer, the Image of a Mountebank on the Stage naturally occurs to one's Thoughts, who publishes his Bills with the same Design, as this *C-----w-----n* did his Book; talks with a lofty Air of his surprizing Cures, as our Author does of the wonderful Benefit of Leases; tells you, *He is one of the honest Men* in the Profession, and as such entertains not, nor pursues any Views but for the publick Good; trumpets it out, that *His Behaviour the more it is examin'd and scrutinized, the more it will be approv'd of; a Reward amply sufficient to excite to Action even the most Indolent*; that He Travels up and down the Country (even from *N-----k* as far as *E-----rt-----n*) in the worst of Weather, not from any selfish Motives, but for the Service of Mankind; that he labours, till he Sweats again, to make you believe, that *He is the Man of known Probity and Honour, not to be by-assed by Fear, Affection, or private Interest; of Capacity to manage All Cures, and willing for the Publick Good to go through the Fatigues of his Profession*, P. 7. And all the while (§§) that he is thus founding his own Praises, and throwing out Reflections, without Truth or Mercy, against the Neighbouring Regulars, and Under Agent, perfectly well qualified for the Purpose, is sedulously engaged in collecting the Money from the gaping Populace, that surrounds the Stage. The Characters of the two Quacks here exhibited, tho' of different Professions, seem to bear a near Resemblance, and it were to be wish'd, that the Practices of our Author had not been productive of as *Bad Effects*,

(**) 3.

(§§) 4.

and as *Injurious* to the Town of N-----k, as the Nostrums of an Empirick usually are to his Unfortunate Patients.

The History of this Ch---w---n, on His Stage of Action, aided, abetted, and supported by a F-----r, *not less Worthy*, will be undertaken with the greater Readiness and Pleasure, as it is to be hoped, that, when his Behaviour throughout the whole Course of his Office, and even beyond the Term of it, shall be impartially represented, the Inhabitants will no more give Credit to his delusive Professions and vain Pretences, in Case he should have Resolution enough to sue again for the same Office, nor listen to his Recommendation of any Parish-Officer, in Case he should have the Confidence to offer it; Experience has shewn, that whom he may Recommend, he may Influence, and how Pernicious his Influences and Measures have lately been, will appear from the following most faithful Relation of them. (**)

But, before we enter upon a Detail of this Ch---w---n's *Operations*, when in Office, it may not be improper to explain, by what Ways he insinuated himself into it; and upon this Occasion it cannot surely be soon forgot in N-----k, how he went about in a private Manner, artfully representing to the Parishioners, that the then present Ch---w---n, Mr. M---l---s, had been elected into that Office for several Years successively, which, as he alledg'd, was contrary to Law, Reason and Custom; that many very worthy Inhabitants would be ready to come into the Place, which was grown to be a Trust of Importance to the Town, from their late Recovery of diverse Charity Estates; and for his own Part, if the Parish should be pleas'd to think well of Him, he would undertake all the Fatigues, and discharge all the Duties of the Trust; that he would apply the Publick Money in the most advantageous Manner, ease the Parish in its Assessments, strike off a vast Number of expensive Articles, and make a Multitude of useful Regulations; in short, he appear'd big with many wonderful Schemes for the Publick Good, and only desired to be chosen into the Office for One Year, that he might have an Opportunity to display his extraordinary Talents, and shew them, what mighty Feats he could do. A Gentleman may certainly, without any Derogation to his Honour, solicit the Place of a Ch---w---n, with a View to reform Abuses, and purge away Corruptions; and (§§) when such an one takes this troublesome Office upon him, and discharges it with Prudence and Integrity, he raises his own

Character, and dignifies the Place he accepts. But how low and despicable must the Part acted by this Candidate appear, when it is consider'd, that he was not using his Arts and Industry to set aside an unactive, unskilful, and corrupt Officer; but labouring to remove a most experienc'd, useful, and upright Ch---w---n, who, tho' he had been elected into the Office for several Years before, had with uncommon Diligence employ'd that Time, amongst other Services, in viewing and regulating the long neglected, and much abus'd Charity Estates; in making the strictest Inquiries, in order to the Recovery of Lands from Persons, who, from being the Tenants, were setting up to be the Proprietors of them; and in putting all the Farms into the best Condition imaginable for the Advantage of the Parishioners; of which Services they were so highly sensible, that for their Own Sakes they had from Time to Time unanimously voted him into the Office, voluntarily, and without His Sollicitation, not regarding, how Long he had serv'd, but how Faithfully; Against such a Ch---w---n did the Candidate, we are now speaking of, direct all his Artillery, committing a double Injury to the Town, not only by getting *Him* turn'd out, but *Himself* brought in, not only by stopping the Current of much future Good, which must have accru'd to the Parish from the Management of the (**) Former, but by letting in a Torrent of Present Evil, which the latter has brought upon us, together with Apprehensions of future Corruptions and Mischiefs, which may arise from his bad Example. And yet neither by his private Applications, solemn Promises, or any natural Interest of his Own, could he have gain'd his Point, had not another Circumstance favour'd his Design, and compleated his Success.

The F-----r of this Ch---w---n is St----d to the Court of a certain Great Man, whose Dependants and Tenants he easily engages to vote for him in Parish Affairs, and to favour any Transactions, how wrong soever, wherein he is known to be the Director; for it is justly observ'd, that Men are more afraid of a S-----d, than a Landlord. But we are perswaded, if the Noble Person had been truly acquainted with the Circumstances of Affairs, He would in Justice and Compassion to his Friends and Tenants have left them to their own free Determinations in all Points, where the Rights of the Parish were concern'd, and have taken effectual Care to remove their Apprehensions of being any way disturb'd in their Possessions, or hurt in their

Expe
Defe
Opin
to be
His I
Thof
fions
and t
gles c
pated
View
found
N---A
By
Artifi
which
regula
Prefac
Meth
with
did m
into a
cordin
Wills
Thing
drop o
most f
conder
Culpab
indeed
he ente
ed him
firm'd
Step is
to exe
doubtfe
to Igno
duct ha
trary t
publick
Light,
the Por
ments,
Mr.
have be

Expectations, in Case they appear'd against the St—d in Defence of their Publick Properties. We have too just an Opinion of the Understanding of this Noble Person, not to believe, that he would in such Case have foreseen, that His Interest, if continually strain'd on such Occasions as Those, would be exceedingly weaken'd, when any Occasions (***) of his Own might require the Exertion of it; and that his Strength, which might be powerful in Struggles of another Kind, would be harrafs'd away, and dissipated, if abus'd and made subservient to the mercenary Views of a St---d, especially of a St---d, who would be found to be of no Signification or Influence in the Town of N---k, if not countenanc'd by this Man of Quality.

By the Interest therefore of this Noble Personage, by the Artifices above-mention'd, and by a Kind of Surprize (by which Towns, we know, are sometimes taken, before any regular Opposition can be form'd) did the Author of this Preface become one of the Ch---w---ns; and by the same Methods it was not difficult for him to lead two others along with him into the same Office, and Trust; and indeed he did make Choice of Men, whom he could always Lead into any Thing; who follow'd and voted, and acted, according to His Dictates; as if they had no Thoughts, no Wills, no Motions of their own; as if they were mere Things, and not Persons. We heartily wish, we could drop one Word in Defence of these Men; but upon the most favourable Review of their Conduct, they must stand condemned as utterly Inexcusable; tho' they are not so Culpable, as their Dictator, and Forward Chief--Forward indeed---For no sooner was he elected into the Office, than he enter'd upon the Execution of it, before he had qualified himself by taking the Oaths, which he constantly affirm'd he (§§) might lawfully do. Whether this over-hasty Step is to be imputed to his Ignorance, or his Impatience to execute his important Schemes, might be somewhat doubtful; and Charity might rather incline us to attribute it to Ignorance, if the whole Tenour of his Subsequent Conduct had not prov'd so Unworthy, so Injurious, and so contrary to the Trust committed to him: Some of the more publick Instances whereof shall now be set forth in a true Light, without Exaggeration, it being our Purpose to draw the Portraiture of this Ch—w—n in the Justest Lineaments, and not at all Bigger than the Life.

Mr. M—l—s, whose valuable Services to the Town have before been mentioned in general, had plann'd the E-

state at *Ev—rt—n* in such a Manner, that he made all the Farms very commodious for the respective Tenants, and enter'd in a Book an exact Terrier, or Particular of the various Kinds of Land; for which Service, and the frequent Entertainment of Company at his House on this Occasion, he Deserv'd abundantly more than he receiv'd, or Desir'd to receive. The Estate was afterwards offer'd to be let in *January*, 1747, to the Best Bidder, pursuant to the Decree of the Court of Chancery, when a Number of Tenants, publickly in the Church, before the M—y—r, and all the other Trustees of the Estate at *Ev—rt—n*, agreed to take the several Farms for three Years, and to pay all Taxes whatsoever, all Parish Rates and Quit-rents, and went away well satisfied with their (**) Bargains. But soon after this new Ch---w---n came into Office, which was *Easter* 1748, the Inhabitants were surpriz'd with Complaints from the Tenants at *Ev---rt---n*; whether he was not concern'd in exciting or encouraging them, the Reader will quickly judge. Mr. *F—s*, one of the Principal Tenants, came to a private Meeting of the Trustees, and acted the Part of a Man, who would be thought to be much aggriev'd by having taken a very hard Bargain about five or six Months before, and concluded with desiring an Abatement of the Land Tax; in which he was immediately and warmly Seconded and Supported by this Ch---w---n, one of the Trustees, who, notwithstanding the late known Agreement in the Church, pleaded as Strenuously in the Tenant's Favour, as if he had been *Retain'd* by him; affected an Air of mighty Concern, and declar'd himself very ready to consent to the Abatement, if others would concur with him in it. But one of the Trustees gave it as His Opinion, that they could not, consistently with Honour and Justice to the Town, dissolve an Agreement, which had been regularly made, and Privately discharge the Tenants from the Payment of the Land Tax, which they had Publickly taken upon themselves for the Term of three Years; and that for his own Part, he thought himself the more oblig'd to oppose the Motion, as he was perswaded from the declar'd Opinion of a former Trustee, who had view'd all the Farms, and understood them the Best, that the (§§) Rents were Moderate, and Easy. He then ask'd Mr. *F—s*, whether he would be willing to throw up his Bargain, of which he had so grievously complain'd, that the Farm might be Publickly let again to the Best Bidder. But this he refus'd to do, and in the End acknowledged,

that he had taken it for three Years; subject to the Payment of all Taxes, and insisted upon holding it on the same Terms, rather than run the Hazard of loosing it by being overbid. Another Tenant, who came with him upon the same Errand, and with the like Compliment, agreed likewise to hold on his Land on the like Conditions. Thus the pretended Grievances, fram'd by the Tenants, and justified by this Ch—w—n, as if in the Confederacy, quickly vanish'd. Every Thing now in Appearance remain'd quiet at *Ev—r—t—n* for some Months at least; but not so the Spirit of this Ch—w—n at *N—k*, as will be seen hereafter.

But, before we lose Sight of the preceding Transaction, it may be proper to observe, that, during the Course of the Debate before mention'd, one of the Trustees propos'd, that in Cases of Consequence to the Parish, such as the Abatement of Taxes, or other Diminution of the Income from the Charity Estates, All the Trustees should be Publickly summon'd to meet, not in a Private Room, but in the Body of the Church, on a Day to be appointed, agreeably to the Directions of the Decree on other Occasions, when (**) They, with the Assistance of the Parish, and in the Presence of the Tenants, might inform themselves more perfectly of the Circumstances of any Matters brought before them; be the better enabled to judge of the Merits of any Complaint, and then proceed to a proper Determination. This Trustee imagin'd, that Incautious, or Unexperienc'd Men might be suddenly drawn into Concessions and Compliances at a Private Meeting, against which, in a Publick Assembly of the Parish, they might be advis'd and guarded; and that Men of Corrupt Principles might take Resolutions injurious to the Parish in Private, which they might not venture upon so freely in a more open Place of Observation: but this Method of transacting Business of Moment in a Publick Manner, with reasonable Notice to All the Trustees, was rejected, and particularly by this Ch—w—n. He would have Nothing of this Kind examin'd in Publick, he would keep the Parishioners, as much as possible, in the Dark, and Resolve and Act every Thing, as far as he could, at a Private Meeting. But how is this Behaviour of His to be reconcil'd with the Principle laid down in his Preface? For in P. 3. He declares, that *All honest Men in Trust cannot but concur in letting the Parishioners into the Knowledge of their Affairs*; which yet we find he refus'd to do, when call'd upon, notwithstanding all the Cant of his Professions.

So averſe was this Ch--w--n from having *his Behaviour*, as he pretended, (**) *examin'd and ſcrutiniz'd*, that it is well known, Private Meetings were held, and diſhonourable Reſolutions taken by Him, and Others, when Some of the Truſtees themſelves had no Notice at all of ſuch Meetings. Can he then be call'd *one of the Honelt Men in Truſt*, who, as he ſays, P. 4, *wiſh of all Things for the Obſervation of the Pariſh*, when to the utmoſt of his Power he has induſtriouſly declin'd and avoided all Obſervations. There is a remarkable Paſſage in a celebrated *Latin Author*, as we have read it in an *Engliſh Tranſlation*, to this Purpoſe.

‘ Of all the Unjuſt Men in the World, They are the
‘ moſt Capital Offenders, who whiſt they are acting all
‘ the Parts of Fraud and Diſhoneſty, are taking all imagin-
‘ able Pains to be thought Honelt Men.

But now we muſt adviſe this Lovely Writer to put on no more his Mask of Hypocriſy, which is become ſo tranſparent, ſo very eaſily to be ſeen through, that no more of the Purpoſes at N—k will probably be ſerv'd by it. Indeed, we apprehend, he borrow'd it from his F—r, who himſelf had us'd it for ſo many Years, that it is no Wonder if it be grown too Thin to cover the Inſincerity or Treachery either of the one or the other.

How *Honeſt* the Deſigns of this Ch--w--n were, and what Effects his Private Cabals had againſt the Intereſt of the Town, we ſhall immediately unfold to you. In *December* 1748, a Meeting was held, unknown to two of the Truſtees, in a Private (§§) Room, when this Ch-w-n produced a Writing ready drawn up, and containing in Subſtance, that the Majority of the Truſtees reſolv'd to take off the Land Tax from the Tenants at *Ev-rt-n*, notwithstanding their own late Conſent to pay it two Years longer; but This was upon Condition, *That They would agree to take Leaſes*. The Writing was immediately Signed by all the Truſtees preſent, except One, who honeſtly at firſt objected to it; becauſe as he ſaid, he had lately, in Concert with others, let the Farms in the Church for three Years, and the Tenants had then agreed to pay all Taxes whatever; but this Ch--h-w--n found Means at laſt to ſatiſfy the Conſcience of the diſſenting Truſtee, or perhaps wearied him into a Compliance with a Multitude of fallacious Arguments. Having carried this Point, He did not think it much to ride above twenty Miles, more like an Agent and Undertaker for *Ev-rt-n*, than a Ch—w—n and Truſtee for N—k, and communicated the joyful News to

the Tenants of getting off the Land-Tax; and the more effectually to remove any Distrust, which they might yet entertain, as Some of them had been lately disappointed; he produc'd his Credentials from the Majority of the Trustees, and comforted their Eyes with the Sight of the Paper sign'd in their Favour. This animated and encouraged all the Tenants, even Mr. F——s himself, (who had twice agreed to hold his Farm for three Years with the (**) Payment of all Kinds of Taxes) to come to a Resolution of repairing to N——k, at the appointed Time, in order to have this New Bargain of the Trustees confirmed and carried into Execution. Many Trustees, have to their Honour, made long Journeys and us'd their best Endeavours to promote the Good and Advantage of the Parties, for whom they were concern'd; but we have unhappily seen a C—w—n and Trustee of N——k, tho' not greatly to his Reputation, pleading with uncommon Warmth, taking many Steps in the worst Season of the Year, and putting himself to a monstrous Share of Trouble, not to preserve or improve, but to lessen and suppress, for the Term of Twenty-one Years, the Advantages of those very Inhabitants, for whose Benefit only He pretended, and solemnly profess'd, to undertake the Charge.

It will naturally be asked, with what View could this Riding Officer in Trust take so much Pains to travel from Place to Place, and act with so much Spirit and Vigour on this Occasion? Why is a great Number of Tenants at Ev—rt—n kindly invited, and affectionately intreated by this Ch——w——n to accept an Abatement of the Land-Tax? It will, we believe, be Difficult to assign any other true Reason, than that a large Number of Leases, which the Tenants were oblig'd by the Terms of the Treaty to take, wereto be prepared by his own B—r, who was to receive from every Tenant two Guineas (§§) and an half. This was the Motive of his Journey. *This was a Reward*, to use his own Expression, *amply sufficient to excite him to Action*, P. 4. His B—— (we do not say, that He himself, or his F——r) was to be a considerable Gainer by a Multitude of Leases, whilst the Parishioners were to be considerable Loosers by a Multitude of Abatements. We beg Leave to borrow once more the Words of this Ch——w——n, in P. 4. *If for private Purposes the Abuse of Publick Trust shall at any*

O

Time be attempted, a Scheme can be scarce sooner plotted, than discovered.

But before the Estates at *Ev-rt-n* could be leas'd, there was yet another Difficulty to be surmounted, another Hill for this indefatigable Man to climb up, before he could see the End of his Labours. It is decreed by the Lord Ch—r, that the P—sh Cl—k shall give Notice on a *Sunday* in the Church of *N-k*, of the Time and Place of letting the Charity Estates to the Best Bidders; and tho' this Ch—w—n did not doubt, but the Cl—k (to whom, out of the Fulness of his imaginary Power, he had promis'd an Augmentation of his Salary, if he would publish the Contents of any Papers, put into his Hands by him the said Ch—w—n) would readily catch at the tempting Bait, and pay a due Obedience to his Orders; yet it happen'd in this Case, that the Cl—k, being appriz'd of the unjustifiable Designs on Foot, refus'd to comply with (**) his Direction to give notice of letting the Farms. Here a Stop was put to the Publication of the Requisite Notice, at least for another Week. But this Ch—w—n, not a little provok'd at the Cl—k's Refusal to read the Paper of Notice, (which was like a Refusal to read a Money Bill for the Family) and bound in Honour, as he might think to perform his lately renew'd Engagements, how dishonourable soever, with the *Ev-rt-n* Tenants, resolv'd to make Use of some other Expedient to answer his Purpose. Having found, that the P—Cl—k was not to be allur'd by Promises, nor terrified by Threats of removing him from his Place (which he ignorantly imagin'd he had Power to do) He applies to the Bellman to cry the several Farms to be let in the Church on such a Day. The Man, asham'd of the New Part he was to act, went to this Ch—w—n in the Time of Divine Service, and begg'd to be excus'd from the Office he was imposing upon him; but the other in a violent Manner threatened the poor Bellman also, that he would get him turn'd out of his Place, if he refused to obey him. The Bellman, not yet to be prevail'd upon, hurries away in a Fright to the M—y-r, who order'd him to do, what was requir'd, if the Ch—w—n would stand by him. Compell'd by this Authority the Man, after the last Prayer was read, in a trembling Condition, though supported on each Side by this and another Ch—w—n, cried out in the best Manner he could, the several Farms at

Ev--rt--n to be (**) let at such a Time. So far then was the Affair advanced by this active and Sanctified Ch—w—n, who in the Time of Publick Prayer, whilst he should have been imploring the Mercy of Heaven to take no Vengeance on his Sins, was threatening an in-offensive Fellow-Creature with taking Vengeance upon him for scrupling to do his dirty Work; was promoting an unjustifiable Cause in the House of God by unjustifiable Ways; and, in the very Face of the Parish, betraying the Interest of it to the Inhabitants of another Place; and yet, not out of any Regard, or real Tenderneſs for Them, but from a Family Motive. From whence we find, that neither the Sacredneſs of Places, nor of Truſts, can awe or restrain ſome Men, when Eager in the Purſuit of Sordid Views.

It may not be unſeaſonable in this Place to acquaint the Reader with the Revenge taken by this Ch—w—n againſt the poor P—ſh Cl—k for his Refuſal to read his Paper in the Church. He had been graciously pleaſed to allow ſome Money out of the Publick Stock to Him, and three other Pariſh-Officers, in lieu, as he expreſs'd himſelf, of a Viſitation Dinner. But tho' he continued to give this Bounty to three of the abovementioned Officers, he did not beſtow the like Favour on the P—ſh C—k, who, as we ſaid before, had ſo highly diſoblig'd him; and yet in his Publick Accounts to the Pariſh he charges the Payment of the ſame Sum, as if given (§§) to Him, as well as to the Others: Thus he gratified his Malice againſt the Cl—k, by withholding from him the Money charg'd to be paid to him, and at the ſame Time gratified his Avarice by keeping it as long as he could in his own Pocket; I ſay as long as he could; for unluckily it happen'd, that one of the Truſtees made a Diſcovery of the whole Affair, and the *conſcientious* Ch—w—n was oblig'd to Refund, what he had ſo falſely charg'd. If he ſhould pretend to extenuate his Crime by urging, that the Money charged to be given was but trifling, I would aſk any Caſuiſt, if the Smallneſs of a Sum wrongfully kept or taken, leſſens the Injuſtice of the Action. Surely it is not the Quantity of the Money, but the ill Manner of getting it, which conſtitutes the Crime; and it is well known, that the more Corrupt any Man is, the Lower he will Stoop.

But this Ch—w—n had a much higher Game in View, which the Reader will immediately find him very eager

to pursue. In *January*, 1748, the Day, the never to be forgotten Day, came, when the several Farms at *Ev--rt--n*, pursuant to the unusual Notice given by the *Bellman* in the Church, were offer'd to be let again. But were they then really and fairly offer'd to be let again to the Best Bidders, as the Decree directs? No; It will too plainly appear, that this Ch--w--n intended None should be the *Successful*, tho' Best Bidders, but that Knot of Tenants, who, on his repeated Invitations, had (**) flock'd over to *N---k*, only to go through the Ceremony of Bidding, and then to return Home with Lightfomeness and Chearfulness, when they had unloaded themselves of that Grievous Burthen the Land-Tax. of which this kind Ch--w--n had promised to ease them, by laying it on the Shoulders of the Parishioners at *N-----k*. Amongst others appear'd again Mr. *F---s*, who (whether infatuated, or to use his own Phrase, *Insnar'd*, not by some of the Trustees, as He complain'd, but by this Ill-advising C--w--n, if by any) suffer'd his excellent House and Farm, which were very easily rented, to be put up again. Mr. *F---s* with an Air of Security offer'd no more than the same Rent he had twice before agreed to pay, tho' he was now to be freed from the Payment of the Land-Tax by the above-mentioned Compact with *some of the Honest Men in Trust*. But, contrary to the Expectations of Mr. *F---s*, and the Ch--w--n himself, it happen'd that an Inhabitant of *N---k*, well appriz'd of the Value of the Farm, immediately offer'd a larger Rent than Mr. *F---s*; who, surpriz'd and thunder-struck, was Speechless for a Time. Methinks I see him wildly and confusedly staring at this Ch--w--n, and the other Trustees, and as it were silently imploring their Aid and Relief. But this Ch--w--n and the other Trustees were equally confounded, and throwing their downcast Eyes askew at one another, durst not venture, in the Face (§§) of the Parish, to set aside the Best Bidder, without alledging some plausible Pretence for it; even their Number could not keep them in Countenance. At length one of them recovering himself a little, resolv'd to try the Force of a Stratagem, which just came into his Head, to help out his Friend in so deplorable a Condition. He demanded, that the Person, who had Offer'd the most Rent, should give such Security to pay it, as should be approv'd, and that instantly, before the Meeting broke up, ptherwise he should not be the Tenant. This New Device a little raised the Spirits of Mr. *F---s*; for there was

a Possibility, that the Friends of the Bidder might have been from Home; or that the Bidder himself by some Accident or other might not be able to return within the Shortness of the Time limited, and consequently might have been Distanc'd; or that the Security, if he brought Any, might have been captiously, and with more Craft than Reason, objected to, and thus he might have been Jockied. But by Good Luck he immediately found a Gentleman, who engaged by a Note under his Hand to be answerable for the Rent. The Note was brought with all Expedition, handed about, and perused in a sullen Manner by the Trustees, as if it were a kind of mortifying Disappointment to Them, to have the Security offered, which they pretended to want. All of them sat Silent over it for a Time, neither approving, nor disapproving it; at last it was faintly (**) own'd to be unexceptionable. What could Mr. F—s do under so Terrible a Disappointment? Why, he became an humble Petitioner, that he might be Suffered to continue in his Farm another Year, in which to the great Joy of his Heart he succeeded. Thus He, who, just before, had complain'd of his former Bargain, (into which, as he said, he had been *Insar'd*) and urg'd, that if he held it any longer, it would be an Inconvenience and a Grievance to Himself and Family, not to be borne, most gratefully acknowledg'd the Favour of being help'd to his Farm again; tho' but for a Year longer, and with an Addition of Rent into the Bargain. This puts one in mind of the Poor Man in the Fable, who threw down his Burthen, and call'd upon Death to relieve him from a Toilsome Life, not to be supported any longer. Death appear'd, and the Man earnestly intreated him, that He would be so kind as to help him up with his Burthen again. Here it is proper to acquaint the Reader, that this very Bargain complain'd of by Mr. F—s, and represented to the Parish by this Ch—w---n with a Woful and Piteous Countenance, to be intolerably Grievous to him, was not only acknowledg'd by the Tenant himself to be Reasonable enough, since he was glad to take it up again, but was in Truth so Reasonable, that even an higher Rent than the advanc'd one, paid by Mr. F—s, has been since offer'd by Another (§§).

The above Account concerning Mr. F—s's Farm, together with an Incident, that happened some Time before, naturally suggests an Inquiry after this Ch---w---n's boasted Uprightness, Impartiality, and Regard to the

true Interest of N-----k, who could so rigorously demand Security to be given by an Inhabitant of N-----k, and a Man of Credit (I mean the Bidder against Mr. F---s) and to be given immediately, perhaps in half an Hour, before the Trustees left the Church, without which he must loose the Benefit of the Farm, and the Town loose the Advantage of His Bidding; and yet when two Trustees insisted on Security to be given by another Tenant, who lived at a Distance from N---k, and whose Circumstances were intirely unknown to the Trustees, according to their own Acknowledgment, this same Ch---w---n could think fit to reply, that Security from him was Needless, because there would always be a sufficient Stock upon the Ground for the Payment of an half Year's Rent. But this Argument, it seems, was not to be applied in Favour of a Native of N---k, and one who lived upon the very Spot. The Truth is, this Inhabitant had not only been Guilty of an unpardonable Offence in Bidding an Higher Rent than the Tenant in Possession; but he unluckily happen'd to be no Voter for this Ch---w---n, when a Candidate for the Office, and therefore he was to be no Tenant to the Town of N---k, if any Method could have been contriv'd (**) to exclude him. This unworthy Motive of his Opposition is to be the more censur'd in this Ch---w---n, as in P. 7. he puts on the Air of a good Christian, and would be thought Sollicitous to *discountenance and to guard against all Attacks of Malice and Design.* With the same *Pharisaical* Tenderness does he pretend to preach *Peaccableness one with another, and to condemn such Proceedings, as are opposite to the Laws of good Neighbourhood,* P. 7. while in this late Proceeding he could not be restrain'd, even by his own Advice, from betraying the most evident Prejudice and Rancour against One, who is his opposite Neighbour, and had done him no other Harm than to benefit the Town by the Offer of a higher Rent for a Farm, which is easily rented even at the advanced Price.

But if the Reader require still further Conviction of this Ch--w--n's and his Family's corrupt and partial Management, he will please to give Attention to the following Relation. On that ever Memorable Day, when Mr. F---s's Farm was let and relet, and Another, rented at 13 l. a Year, was afterwards put up to be let, this Ch---w---n expatiated upon the Unreasonableness of Men's Bidding against one another and his B---r, the T----n-Cl----k,

equally Honest, tho' no Trustee, was pleas'd to declare that the present Tenant was a Good one, and that he ought in Justice to be allow'd to hold his Farm at the usual Rent. But another Person, notwithstanding (**) these Discouragements from the two B---rs, offered 14*l.* a Year for the same Farm, and then the Tenant in Possession advanc'd in bidding one Pound more, being 15*l.* a Year. Nevertheless the T---n-C---k thought fit to minute him down at his former Rent of 13*l.* which he had just before declar'd to be sufficient and reasonable; whereupon one of the Parishioners told the T---n-C---k, he wonder'd what he meant, when the Man himself had offer'd 15*l.* This the T---n-C---k denied, and persisted in his Denial, till overcome by the Testimony of other Witnesses. But before the T---n-C---k had set down the Name of his favourite Tenant at 15*l.* a Year, the other Bidder offer'd 16*l.* This so enrag'd the Ch---w---n, his F---r and B---r, that they immediately had Recourse to the former Stratagem, and bawl'd out for his Security; the Man with all Readiness replied, that many other Tenants, who had taken Farms that very Day before him, had brought no Security with them, neither had Any been demanded of them; and therefore he could see no Reason, why they should require it of Him; that he was in good Circumstances, and had Land of his own, which his Neighbours then present could testify. The Ch---w---n, F---r and B---r catch'd at the Word *Land*, and insisted on having his Writings, and a Mortgage to be drawn for Security; which by the way would have brought in fresh Profits to the Family: Then the Ch---w---n began to descant (§§) on the Nature and Reasonableness of Securities; but the F---r very ungenteely interrupted him with these Words, *You make a long Preamble about nought; Let Me talk.* Yet after all his Talking, (and Pity it was, that such a Profusion of *Oratory* should be spent in vain) the Man declar'd, that he would not trust his Writings with any Body on such an Occasion; however he offer'd to bring unexceptionable Security from a Gentleman, very well known to the F---r of the C---w---n, in three Days; and thought, that so short a Time might be reasonably allowed him, as he liv'd above 20 Miles from N---k. But notwithstanding so fair an Offer, this Ch---w---n and the other Trustees immediately let the Farm to the other, tho' at the less Rent of 15*l.* a Year, without so much as asking for any Security at all; to

O 4

the manifest Injury of the Freeholder, who had offer'd the Most, and had made a long Journey to offer it; to the inexcusable Abuse of their Trust, the daring Violation of the Lord Ch---r's Decree, and the evident Disadvantage of the Town.

And now upon a Review of the abovemention'd Proceedings on that Remarkable Day, when Mr. M---'s Estate was let, is there any one so partial as not to declare, that if this Ch---w---n had been guilty of no other Breaches of Trust, than those committed in the Church on that very Day, those Alone would have been amply sufficient to have blazoned (**) his Character, and blacken'd his Memory to all future Generations.

But from these publick Biddings in the Church, where the Rents of the Estate at *Ev---rt---n* were much advanced, the Reader will observe, how groundless the Complaints of the Tenants were, as well as how ridiculous and untrue the Representations of this C---w---n, who took so much Pains to set forth the extravagant Dearness of the Farms of *Ev---rt---n* in so lamentable a Speech, that it is hard to say, whether he rais'd the Laughter of the Inhabitants or their Indignation most. It were easy to prove, that a much better Rent would have been bid for several of the other Farms, now let for 21 Years, had the Time of letting them been more Generally known. But this Ch---w---n advis'd and directed the Tenants of *Ev---rt---n* at a private Meeting, as we have been inform'd by a very credible Person present at it, to come over to *N---k* with all Secrecy, and retake their Farms, lest the Neighbourhood, if it took the Alarm, might think it worth their while, tho' at the Expence of a long Journey, to offer more Rent for them. Is this then *one of your Honest Men in Trust*? What an Opinion must the Tenants themselves entertain of the Man, who thus sacrificed to them the Publick Good of those Parishioners, who voted him into Office upon his solemn Assurances to promote it? (§§)

But tho' it is one of the principal Intentions of our History to represent the Actions of this Ch---w---n, we shall occasionally do Justice to his B---r, and accordingly give a short Account in this Place of a happy Contrivance of his for advancing the main Design (in other Words, the private Interest) of the Family. It was indeed a notable Argument of a promising Genius, and an improving

Capacity for Business. When an Inhabitant of N---k had taken two Farms on the remarkable Day before-mentioned, the B---r did not think proper to include them in the same Lease, tho' taken on the same Day, both of them Parts of the same Estate, and lying in the same Village; but he had the Dexterity to make out two separate Leases of them, and then had the *Modesty* to demand the Sum of five Guineas, which the Inhabitant, howsoever astonish'd and provok'd, chose to pay, rather than contest the Matter, and run the Hazard of losing his Bargain, through the overbearing Power of this Ch-w--n, who, as it has appear'd from his whole Conduct, would have taken all Advantages against him, who should have offer'd to have abridg'd his B---r in his Fees, how Extravagant soever. Whether this ingenious Contrivance, or the general Scheme of making the Most of the Leases, was concerted by the Family, that there might be Room for this Ch---w---n and the F---r to be Quarter'd, as it were, upon the B---r, and received a share of the Profits, we can't (**) pretend to say. But we would ask any Reasonable Man, whether the Demand of two Guineas and a half for one Lease is not exorbitant? Whether it does not in Truth diminish the Income of the Charity Estates; And whether Men would not offer the More Rent, especially for a Cottage, or a small Piece of Ground, if the Charge of taking it was the Less? Or let us ask, whether it did not become this Ch-w--n, (who set up to be a *Man of Probity and Honour, not to be bias'd by Affection or private Interest*, P. 7.) to lessen the grievous Expence of the Leases, and not suffer his B---r to raise such unmerciful Contributions, especially when one of the Trustees had so fully, and so frequently remonstrated against those Exactions?

But we will now proceed to make some further Discoveries of this Ch---w---n's extraordinary *Uprightness* in the Management of his Trust.

On the 2d Jan. 1748, the Accounts relating to the Estate of Mr. B-----n, one of our liberal Benefactors, were pass'd, as directed, in the Church, the Rents and Profits whereof are order'd by the Decree to be annually applied on that very Day, if the 1st of Jan. should happen on a *Sunday*. On that Day some Tradesmen came, as usual in former Years, with their Bills, which were owing for the necessary Repairs of the said Estate; but this Ch---w---n, heading his Majority of the Trustees, would only consent to pay one of the Tradesmen half his

Bill, (**) and the others not a Farthing; (tho' there was a considerable Surplus of Money, more than sufficient to satisfy the Demands of all the Tradesmen) which Surplus the Re--v--r was order'd to keep in his own Hands till their Mightinesses Pleasure was further known. This appear'd to be so open a Violation of the Decree, and so flagrant a Denial of common Justice to the Tradesmen, whose Bills had been long due, that this C---w---n found himself most miserably perplex'd, and intangl'd in a longer Dispute, than he expected; yet he strove above an Hour to defend himself against the reasonable Expostulations of the Tradesmen, and the declared Resentments of the Parishioners, sometimes by denying the Contents of the Decree, tho' publish'd by himself, sometimes by promising Payment at another Time, and sometimes (as he was forc'd to fly about to all the shuffling and false Pretences he could invent) by desiring to be heard upon another Point quite foreign to the Purpose. At last he was so far overcome, not by the Justice of the Case, not by the Force of the Decree, but by Reproach and Shame, that he did agree to discharge the intire Bill of one Tradesman. It became necessary, you see, to use a kind of Violence with this Ch---w---n, before any of the Complainants could as it were extort from him, what he had no Right to detain, and what They had the clearest and most immediate Title to receive, grounded upon the Authorities of Law, Reason, and Conscience. (§§) But notwithstanding all these, the higher Authority of this Ch---w---n so strangely prevail'd, that tho' one Tradesman with the greatest Difficulty was paid off, others receiv'd nothing, but insolent Words; in which Coin the Ch---w---n much abounded, and made many of his publick Payments in.

But we must not pass over the Proceedings of that Day without extolling the Spirit of one Parishioner, who, tho' he had been a zealous Voter for this Ch---w---n, grew so sensible of his Misbehaviour, that he publicly reproach'd him for refusing to pay the Tradesmen's Bills, and acting contrary to the Decree; which directs, that the Monies receiv'd from Mr. B---n's Estate shall be annually dispos'd of and applied on such Day of Accounts. But this Ch---w---n denied, that the Lord Ch---r had made any such Order, which the other immediately produc'd, and read to his Face, laying him open to the whole Parish, as One, who rather than he could prevail with himself to discharge his Trust, could add to the Infamy of

breaking it a Publick Falshood. It would be doing wrong to Merit to pass unmentioned or uncommended the Behaviour of another Inhabitant, who, tho' a near Belation to this Ch---w---n, profess'd himself at Church asham'd of his Proceedings on that Day, and declar'd that he would come no more to those Meetings. And hitherto he has kept his Word. (**)

It was by some expected, that this Ch—w—n would have shewn an Inclination on the next Day of Publick Accounts, which happen'd five Days after, to regain, if possible, his Credit, and repair his late Misconduct. But he was too full of other Designs, and had not Resolution or Integrity enough to do what was Right. For on the 7th of *January*, the Tradesmen, according to Custom, brought in their Bills for the Repairs of Mr. M---'s Estate, and this Ch---w---n, according to Custom likewise, refused the Payment of them; but after a warm Debate, finding himself unable to maintain his Ground any longer, he yielded at last to pay one Tradesman about a fourth Part of his Bill, and haughtily dismiss'd the others with their Bills, but without any Money; alledging, that Money must be kept for the Payment of certain Iron Chests, which he had just order'd to be made in *London*. But where was the Reason or Justice to reserve any Sum for those Chests, which could not probably be finish'd and convey'd into the Country in a short Time, (and indeed they were not sent into the Country till seven or eight Months afterwards) and in the mean while to deny the Payment of Bills to Tradesmen, which had been long owing? But it will quickly appear, that this Story of the Chests was a mere Pretence; for one of the Tradesmen, who has an Estate in Land, made an Offer in the Church, that he would pay for the Chests immediately upon their Arrival, provided his (§§) Bill might be forthwith paid. However this Proposal was, to the Amazement of All, rejected. But how must the Wonder and Indignation of every honest Parishioner be increased, when he shall be informed, that there was no Occasion at all to expend any large Sum of Money in the Purchase of New Iron Chests, there being then a very Capacious old one, well hoop'd with Iron, with proper Locks and Keys for every Trustee, already prepared in the Vestry Room, which with a small Expence of 2 or 3 *l.* might have been so contrived, as to have answered all the Purposes of the Decree, and it was judged to be so strong, that one of the Trustees, against whose Security no Exceptions could be taken, pub-

lickly offered to be answerable for any Sums, which might be deposited in it. But that did not suit with the Designs of the Ch—w—n, who ordered 24 l. besides other Expences, to be paid for one small Chest to a Tradesman, whom he employed to procure it; though the same Person had made an Offer to one of the Trustees to provide three New Strong Iron Chests with good Locks and Keys for every Trustee, and to fasten them securely in the Ground for 14 l. But we do not from hence affirm, that the Man was intended to be purchased, as well as the Chest, or that we have got the Key to any such Secret.

Another particular Bill was likewise discharged without any Hesitation. It was brought indeed by (**) the B—r of this Ch—w—n for an Opinion said to be taken, (tho' he refus'd, when call'd upon by two of the Trustees, to produce that Opinion) about commencing a Law-Suit against the Impropiator of N——k, in relation to the Chancel, which this Ch—w—n would have Others believe, ought to be repair'd by Him, tho' it had been maintain'd Time out of Mind by the Parish. Had one of the Trustees been consulted by him, as he ought to have been, we are perswaded, He could have inform'd him, without putting the Parish to any Expence, that, tho' the Rector or Impropiator is bound by the General Custom of *England* to repair the Chancel; yet if the Custom hath been for the Parish to repair it, That Custom is the Law. But it was not the Business of this Scheming Man to be so easily satisfied; however we shall take this Opportunity to acquaint him, that he had no more Authority, tho' Ch—w—n, to maintain the Suit he had projected out of Mr. M—s's Estate, which he intended to do, than he had to pay his B—r's Bill out of it. For the Decree directs, that after some particular Payments are made out of the Rents of Mr. M—s's Estate, the Residue shall be applied *in repairing or beautifying the Church, or some other Good Work or Works, for the Common Good or Weal of the Town of N——k, as the Trustees shall think most necessary and convenient, and most agreeable to the Donation and Intention of the said M—s.* It cannot therefore be imagin'd, that the (§§) Income of Mr. M—s's Estates which He himself expressly order'd, as well as the Lord Ch—r, agreeably to His Intention, decreed to be laid out *in repairing or beautifying the Church, or in other Good Work or Works for the Common Good*, was intended to be applied to the Maintenance of a Law-Suit about Repairing the Chancel, which has been

done Time Immemorial by the Parish, and which without any Expence at Law is now repair'd at a small Expence out of the said Estate. No Man of ordinary Sense can conceive, that a Contest at Law, unavoidably Expensive, and at best Hazardous, can fall under the Denomination of a *Good Work*, or be recommended to a Parish by a Real Benefactor; (unless it were in the Defence of his own Estate) nor can that be included under the Notion of a *Common Good*, which is undoubtedly a Present, Certain, and *Common Evil*. In short it is a *Work Good* only for this Ch--w--n and his Family, who Alone are the Projectors of it. For if this Law Scheme could have been brought to Maturity, (and it would in all Probability have been effected, had this Ch--w--n been re-elected into Office another Year, which you will quickly see, was afterwards attempted) his two B---rs, the one an Attorney at N--k, and the other in L--d-n, might have been kept in constant Pay, whilst they were bandying the Ball of Law to one another, and the Money, which ought to be applied out of Mr. M---s's Estate in Ease of the Parishioners for the Repairs of the Church, (**) might have been swallow'd up in a Dispute about the Repairs of the Chancel.

The B---r of this Ch--w--n, in another Article of his Bill, charges his Payment of a Sum of Money for a Copy of the Endowment of N--k Vicarage with the Proctor's Fee; but he refused to produce either the Copy, or the Proctor's Receipt for the Money. The Copy indeed, tho' without a Date, in a Month or two after his B---'s Removal from his Office, was sent to one of the Trustees; but a Sight of the Proctor's Receipt, though it had been often demanded, has been constantly denied to this very Day. Methinks this Ch--w--n should have examined his B--r's Bill, and not the less carefully, because he was his B---r, and honestly required of him the Proctor's Receipt, as a Voucher to be kept with his Bill, before he had consented to the Payment of it; much less ought he to have consented, that it should be paid out of an Estate, left by the Donor, and decreed by the C---r, to *other Purposes*.

But, to relieve for a few Minutes the Reader's Attention to so long a Relation of Partiality and Injustice, we shall exhibit a Scene, which afforded no small Entertainment. The Year of this Ch--w--n's Office was upon the Point of expiring: And who could imagine, that, after the prodigious Injuries he had done, he should have the Confidence to become a Petitioner to the Parish to be re-chosen

into the same Trust? Especially as he had formerly declared (**), that he would not attempt to continue in the Office any longer than one Year; but his Declarations were, like some Treaties of Peace, made to last only, till it suits with ambitious or self-interested Designs to break them. With Views of this Kind was this undaunted Hero of our History transported, and having tasted the Sweets of Power, we do not say, the Profits of it, resolved to be a Candidate once more. He was not contented to have his mighty Sway limited within the Compass of a single Year. That was too short a Space to compleat his great and numerous Schemes. The Swell of his Mind was such, that he wanted doubtless to be Dictator for Life, or to use his own very correct Phrase, P. 7. *to assume upon Himself the whole Direction of the Trust* perpetually. But to do Justice to him; in his Struggle to be re-elected into the Office, he laid aside his usual Haughtiness, and put on an Air of Humility, or rather Servility; he hurried about from House to House, supplicating, fawning, and promising. We have read in the Translation of an old Roman Author, an handsome Compliment upon a certain Man of distinguished Merit, *that the Office he bore sought Him, and that He did not seek the Office.* But this Candidate Sought the Office, and with so much Solitude, with so painful, and with so rueful a Countenance, that one would imagine his very Bread had depended upon it. With this Anxiety in the Muscles of his Face, as well as in his Mind, did He struggle for a Place of no (§§) Dignity, but what a Worthy Conduct in it could give, and of no Profit, but what Sordidness itself could create.

When he had exerted all his Skill in canvassing, the Day of Election came on, when lo! he makes his Personal Appearance in the Church; but not like One, who had the least Hopes of Success; Those, we are assured by his own Party, he had given up three Days before; but like One, who came to be Try'd by the Parish for his manifold Misdemeanours: He skulk'd behind a certain noisy Advocate, in that very Inclosure, where he had lately play'd the Tyrant, insulted Equals and Superiors with an unbounded Licence, and exercised Acts of Injustice without Remorse. He did not then with a stretched out Hand, and a continued Round of Impertinence and Digression, Inconsistency, Contradiction, as if *Hereditary*, affect the Part of an Orator, tiring out the Inhabitants with his long-winded and premeditated Speeches about Every Thing, and about Nothing, with Looks as

Eloquent as his Words. No; His Behaviour was quite different. He then stood Silent, Confounded and Terrified, as if he apprehended every Moment all the ill Effects of a just Resentment from an highly injur'd, and long abus'd People. But They, how much soever provok'd, took no other Revenge upon him, than to chuse Another in his Stead by a vast Majority; Sufficient, one would think, to extinguish in him for ever the Vanity of Solliciting any more the (**) Office of Ch--w--n. Thus fell this aspiring and groveling, this haughty and fawning, this wicked and sanctified Parish-Officer, most bitterly lamenting his piteous Disaster, and miserably lamented by his F-----r and B-----r, whose Hopes of further Advantages were lost in his Fall; tho' his Fall was attended with the inexpressible Joy of Many of his own Voters, forc'd and dragg'd out of every Corner into his Service.

And now let us digress a little to congratulate this Ch-w-n himself (we own, it is a new Kind of Congratulation) upon his very Defeat, since it has Luckily cut off from him so many Occasions, which, if we may judge from his former Conduct, he might otherwise have embrac'd of doing fresh Acts of Mischief to the Town, heaping up new Loads of Guilt on Himself, and exposing his Character more and more to the Scorn and Detestation of every Honest Man. After this we must not omit to felicitate the Parishioners for their Removal of a Ch--w--n, whom, if he had been re-chosen, they might (possibly) have had the Mortification to have seen again displaying a Variety of well known Qualities; when sometimes Folly, sometimes Vanity, sometimes Insolence and Tyranny, and at other Times the grossest Partiality, and most apparent Iniquity, might in their several Turns have presid'd, and given too lively an Idea of the Character of a former Ch--w--n. And we do the rather felicitate the Parishioners on this (§§) Happy Escape, because not long before the Election, when he offer'd himself a second Time, he had us'd his Interest very warmly with the Trustees of his own Party, to allow the Sum of 40*l*. (being a full Year's Rent) to a Tenant for Improvements; tho' he had but a few Months before, taken the Farm on a Lease of Twenty-one Years, set at a very low Rent, in Consideration and upon his Promise, that he would make all possible Improvements upon it. But this extravagant and unreasonable Proposal was so stre-

nuously opposed by one of his own Party, that he was forced to drop his Scheme for a Time; however he declared to the Trustees in a haughty and surly Manner, that his B--r the T--n-Cl--k should write a favourable Answer to the Tenant, and in Case he was chosen again into the Office the approaching *Easter*, he would, if possible, effect his Design of Complimenting the Man with the 40 *l*. What could induce this Ch--w--n to be so Over-Generous? Or what Returns the obliged Tenant could propose to make, are Secrets we are not likely to know. But this is certain, that every Man ought to be Grateful for Favours and Indulgencies. Thus the Reader not only sees, what a dreadful Waste of the Publick Money has been made by this Ch--w--n, but that further Diminutions of it were intended, if he got again into Power, and consequently what an Advantage to the Inhabitants was the just Rejection of him. (**)

But this Ch--w--n, when beaten out of the Field at N-----k, retreated to a Camp at N-----m, not with a Design to Engage, but to Parley. When he had done incredible Mischief to the Publick Properties of the Inhabitants, of which I have already furnish'd you with too many Instances, He could not sit down contented without attempting upon their Publick Liberties, by entring a Caveat in the Spiritual Court against their Election of the New Ch--w--ns, and professing to try the Validity of it; tho' it had been made in the Church, the usual and only Place of Polling, by a prodigious Majority of Voices, and in a more orderly and quiet Manner, than ever had been known in any Contest; and tho' He, as if ashamed of his Numbers, had poll'd the Few Men for him, contrary to Law and Custom, in a Room distant from the Church, large enough, we own, for all his Voters. But notwithstanding all these Disadvantages, he resolv'd to harraß the Inhabitants, as much as he could, and to try, how far Favour, Prejudice, Chance, or even Falshood itself might promote his Success. Thereupon proper Emissaries were employ'd both in Town and Country to exclaim against pretended Riots, and feigned Violences committed at the Election, and industriously to give out, (the more surely to pre-engage, if possible, the Minds of the Great in this Affair, and procure their Interposition and Influence) that the Contention about the Election of Ch--w--ns, was only a Party (§§) Dispute, and not any Struggle about chusing Faithful Officers for the better Management of the Charity Estates.

Yet after all these groundless Pretences and false Insinuations, when the Day came, which had been agreed upon by both Parties, and set apart by the Off--c--l Himself for hearing them, the Complainant did not appear in the Court, nor were any Witnesses produced for him, nor was the bare Form of an Allegation deliver'd by his Proctor, who at that Time had no other Business upon his Hands, than to beg the Off- c--l to adjourn the Cause to the next Court Day, which was accordingly granted. But several Court Days afterwards pass'd, and yet not the least Attempt was made to prove any Tumult, or to invalidate the late Election of the New Ch—w—ns; who, foreseeing no End of those studied Delays, obtained a Mandamus from the Court of *King's-Bench*, to Swear them into their Office; but to frustrate This, Another Mandamus was procured by the Complainant to swear in himself, and the other two Candidates of his Party, as Ch—w—ns; upon which the Off--c--l determin'd to Swear in all the Contending Parties, and propos'd to the Complainant to have the Oath immediately administer'd to Him, which He, to the Amazement, and Diversion of the whole Company, declined to take; and desir'd a little Time, during the Sitting of the Court, to consider what he should do. After many a deep Thought, he at length broke forth, and told the Off--c--l, that he (**) would give him a Bond of Indemnity, if he would refuse to Swear the opposite Party, and suffer the Cause to be remov'd to Common Law, which would have answer'd his Purpose of gaining Time. The Off--c--l startled at the Proposal, immediately rejected it; when the poor Man, as if plung'd into the deepest Distress, begg'd, and to use his own Expression, *begg'd for God's Sake*, that his Petition might be complied with. But he could not prevail. At length he was ask'd by the Off--c--l to assign a Reason, why after all his Pains to get into the Office he declin'd the Offer of being Sworn into it; to which he replied in these very Words, *that he did not know whether it would be Worth his While, but that he would come to a final Resolution in a Week's Time at N——k*; from whence indeed he did signify his Pleasure to refuse the Office, not judging it, we suppose, *to be Worth his While*, when all Circumstances were consider'd, when (in Case he should be establish'd in the Office) the Opposition which he might expect from the New Ch—w—ns, would probably defeat and overthrow all his Private Views and Designs against the Publick Good.

P

Thus ended an Affair, which had made so great a Noise in this Part of the Country, where, tho' the Sentiments of People, according to the different Representations, which they had receiv'd, had been much divided, All honest Men at last united in their just Censures of One, who had begun a Contest in the (**) Spiritual Court without the least Colour of Reason, and dropt it for a Reason the least Reputable, that could be given.

If the Merits of this Dispute have been grossly misrepresented to any Personages in High Stations (as there is too much Reason to believe they have) if they have been assured by this late Ch—w—n or his Agents, that the Majority of Votes was fairly and clearly on his Side, and that he was defeated of his Election by Riots only, with what Indignation must those Personages look down upon the Assertors of such Falshoods, since it must now most evidently appear to Them, that He (this Ch—w—n) complain'd of Tumults without Cause, pretended a Right, which he never attempted to prove, commenc'd a Suit in the Spiritual Court, which he durst not prosecute, and procur'd a Writ of Mandamus from the Court of *King's-Bench*, which he had not the Hardiness to proceed upon. And if it can be supposed to have happened (as without the least Reflection on those Persons of Rank and Distinction it might have happen'd) that They, trusting to the fallacious Accounts of this Ch--w--n and his Agents, had related their Groundless Stories to Others, how must their Abhorrence of such false Informers be heighten'd, when they consider the high Indignity put upon Themselves, by making them the Instruments of spreading, tho' innocently, Calumnies without Foundation, and causing them to entertain injurious Thoughts of (§§) Those, who no Way deserv'd their Censure; when the Mists, which had been cast before their Eyes, being dispell'd, they must clearly see, and be fully convinc'd, that None were injur'd or aggriev'd but those Parishioners, whom this Ch--w--n had put to so much Trouble and Expence, without the least Appearance of Reason or Justice on his Side, and whom he had kept as long as possible out of the Right they had of being serv'd by Officers of their own chusing. But as all Men are liable to be deceiv'd, if those Noble Persons were by Misrepresentations induced to enter into other Men's Prejudices, there can be no Doubt but they will do themselves Justice by withdrawing their Confidence for the future from such

Deceivers, and not suffer Themselves any more to be abus'd by their Artifices.

But whilst the apparent Mockery of this Dispute in the Spiritual Court was depending, we must inform the Reader, what Mischief this Ch—w—n had still in his Heart against the Interest of the Inhabitants, and how determin'd he was to act against them with his usual Unfaithfulness, to the very Point of the Expiration of his Office. Not long before the New Ch—w—ns were sworn into their Office, He took upon him to grant jointly with two others, three Leases of three Houses at N———k, not for Twenty-one, but for Thirty-one Years, not only without consulting with the Ch—w—n chosen by the Minister, whose Consent was absolutely necessary, (**) but without consulting the Advantage of the Town, by making the most of those Houses, which, as they had been given to Publick Uses, ought to have been Publickly offer'd to the Best Bidder, agreeably to the Decree of the Lord Ch——r in similar Cases, which is, without doubt, the best Guide and Direction to Ch—w—ns in the Disposal of any other Charity Estate, which they might be intrusted with. But we have seen, that neither the Spirit nor the Letter of the Decree could bind or influence the Actions of this Ch—w—n, who, together with two Others, let the three abovemention'd Houses at one Pound ten Shillings a Year, for which many would have given at least five Pounds a Year. But this Ch—w—n, by granting those Leases, transgress'd not only the Bounds of common Justice, but the Bounds prescrib'd on that particular Occasion by the Laws of the Land. For Ch—w—ns, who are not a Corporation, can neither take, nor lease Lands. By the Statute 23d H. VIII. c. 10. All Grants of Lands and Hereditaments made in Trust to the Use of Ch—w—ns, tho' but for a Term of Years, are void; because they are not Incorporated by Royal Patent: As therefore no Grant of Lands or Hereditaments can be made to Them for a Term of Years, They cannot grant for a Term of Years any Lands or Hereditaments whatsoever. Thus we may observe, that neither Law, nor Equity, neither Reason, nor Conscience could restrain the Spirit of this overbearing (§§) Ch—w—n from running into a Multitude of Irregularities, and Acts of Injustice against the Town, notwithstanding all that formal Cant and Hypocrisy, which runs through his whole Preface.

Sorry we are, that any Occasion has been given to pursue yet further the History of this late Ch—w—n and his

Family; but, it seems, They were resolv'd still to pursue their iniquitous Measures against the Town in Defiance of Authority. The L—d Ch——r directs the Re—v—r of Mr. M——s's Estate to pay the Rents into the Hands of the four Ch—w—ns within eight Days after the Receipt thereof, and several Payments thereout, being first made, the Residue to be put into an Iron Chest in the Treasury House in the Vestry of the Church of N——k, with three Locks and three Keys, to be kept by a like Number of Trustees. He likewise ordered the Re—v—r of Mr. B——n's Estate to deposit the Money arising from it, eight Days after the Receipt of it, in an Iron Chest in the said Treasury Room, with three Locks and three Keys, to be lodg'd with three Trustees particularly specified, and to deposite the Book of Publick Accounts in the said Chest. But the *Wiser* Author of this Book of Donations, did not approve of the above-mention'd Orders; for when two of the Trustees publicly call'd upon the Re—v—r of the Rents of both the Estates to conform himself to the above-said Directions of the Decree, this Man in Conjunction with his F—r and B—r, (**) publicly in the Church, perswaded the Re—v—r to pay no Obedience to them, but to keep the Money, and likewise the Book of Publick Accounts, in his own Hands, which he accordingly did. Thus the Publick Money was lock'd up from the Use of the Publick, and became as it were Private Property; and thus the pretended Reformer of Publick Abuses, tho' he ceas'd to be a Ch—w—n, could not cease to act with his usual Violence against the Interest of the Parish, having rendered the Decree, which had so wisely provided for it, utterly ineffectual in many Instances from his Entrance into the Office, even beyond the Expiration of it.

We must confess, we are confounded, and lost in Amazement, when we reflect on the Whole Conduct of this lately depos'd Ch—w—n, his F——r and B——r, this notable Triumvirate, Publickly shewing on every Occasion as little Regard to the Order of a L—d Ch——r, as they could have shewn to a Precept of the most inferior Officer; always treating it with Disdain, if it stood in the Way of their Views, and only conforming themselves to it, if it did not oppose Them. Trustees appointed by the L——d Ch—r were not consulted, Resolutions of Consequence to the Parish executed without their Knowledge.—Agreements, tho' publicly and unanimously made by former Trustees, pursuant to the Decree for the Good of the Inha-

bitants, dissolv'd, and new Bargains concluded to their prodigious Detriment for a long (**) Term of Years—The Design of the Notice, ordered by the Decree to be publish'd for letting the Farms, frustrated, as far as could be, by this late Ch--w--n, who advis'd the Tenants in Possession to keep such Notice as much as possible from the Knowledge of Others, who might come to be Bidders against them—All Biddings for Houses or Farms, tho' so plainly directed by the Decree, openly discountenanc'd, and one of the highest Bidders, without any just Reason, absolutely rejected—Money advanc'd out of an Estate, (ordered to be applied to other Purposes both by the Donor and Ch—r) for making Preparations to commence a Law-Suit, which could only answer the Designs of a most provident Ch-w-n, and his Family.-----The Rents of two considerable Estates directed to be kept in the Hands of the Re-v-r to be ready at a Call, (perhaps for maintaining some Law Project, or other Uses equally Serviceable to the Publick) tho' such Rents were order'd by the L---d Ch----r to be deposited in an Iron Chest in one particular Place in the Church, with Keys to several Trustees;-----Who could have imagin'd, that a Decree of a L—d Ch———r, whose Name, (as one of the Trustees observ'd in the Church) cannot be mentioned without the Highest Reverence, a Decree pronounc'd upon the most mature Deliberation, and the Effect of the most consummate Experience and Wisdom, in a Cause of very (§§) great Importance to a Numerous Parish, should in so many glaring Instances be slighted, and thrown aside, as if it were an Useless Matter of Form, or the Product of a weak Judgment? Who could have conceived, that the F———r of this late Ch--w--n should arrive at so high a Degree of Insolence, as to declare at a Publick Meeting in the Church in express Words, *That he should not mind the L—d Ch———r's Decree at all?* A Declaration, which can be fully proved, as well as that his general Conduct has all along been agreeable to it. But since the Inhabitants have seen, that this Decree, this noble Fabrick, like a Fortrefs, rais'd by his L—ds—p for the Security of these Charity Estates, has been with an high Hand demolished in several Parts, and Breaches made wide enough for other corrupt Men to enter, and make further Havock, what have they to do? Is it not become extremely necessary, that they should endeavour by proper Representations and Complaints of the Contempt of this Decree, to obtain a New Order to reinforce it by such Means, as the

P 3

Court shall judge to be most effectual, whether it be by punishing the former Transgressors of it, or by giving such further Directions, as may prevent others from transgressing it for the Future. The Inhabitants are sensible, it is not for them to prescribe the particular Methods for restraining Abuses of this Nature, though they hope, it is allowable for Men, who are the Sufferers, (**) to set forth the visible Necessity of some such Restraints. But we will say no more on this Head, as it is the peculiar Happiness of this Nation, that so able a Discerner of what is Right and Fitting presides in a Court of Equity, before whom Men need only to Represent on this Occasion; they need not Argue.

Let us proceed then to observe, that not only the Authority of that Noble Person, who made such wise Provisions for the better Management of the Charity Estates, and the excellent Uses, for which they were given, must inflame the Account of this late Ch--w--n; but there is another Circumstance, which highly aggravates his Crime. It is this: The Charge of a Trustee to the most considerable Charity Estate is annexed by the Decree to the Office of each of the Ch--w--ns of N-----k; and therefore when a Ch--w--n of N-----k takes an Oath to execute his Office *Truly and Faithfully*, (which upon his Entrance into it he is always oblig'd to do) he knows himself to be as much bound by his Oath to manage and let that Charity Estate committed to his Care, and apply the Parish Money arising from it, to the best Advantage for the Uses intended, and the Publick Good, as he is by the same Oath to execute any other Part of the Office of a Ch--w--n with Honesty and Fidelity; and that if he wilfully fails in his Duty, as a Trustee of that Charity, he violates not only his Trust, but his Oath. The Opinion (§§) of the learned Dr. *Prideaux* in the Case of Ch--w--ns we shall give you in his own Words.

If any Ch--w--n does not well Husband the Parish Money, and does not employ it to the best Advantage for the End intended, nor gives a just and faithful Account of all at last, He becomes Guilty of the Breach of his Oath, and loads his Soul with the heinous Guilt of Perjury.

Let the Inhabitants therefore of N-----k judge, whether this late Ch--w--n by mismanaging the Publick Estate, and misapplying or ill-husbanding the Parish Money in the Instances before related, has not most evidently broke his

Oath, that Oath, which he took to discharge his Office *Truly and faithfully*.

We have now shewn, how contrary all the Proceedings of this late Ch—w—n have been to the hypocritical Professions in his Preface, and shall conclude our Remarks upon it by observing the Mock-Solemnity, with which he concludes it, P. 7. He tells the Parishioners, *that it is agreeable to the Interest as well as Duty of Electors to regard the Qualifications of all Candidates for Office, whether they be Men of known Probity and Honour, not to be biassed by Fear, Affection, or private Interest, of Capacity to manage, and willing, for the Publick Good, to go through the Fatigues of their Trusts*. To the affected Gravity of this Admonition we must reply, that if the (**) Parishioners will act *agreeably to their Interest as well as Duty*, and elect None into Office but Persons endued with the Qualifications above-mentioned, the Author of this Preface has fairly dictated, and as it were, passed a Bill for his own Exclusion, and can never more be ranked in the Number of Ch—w—ns.

Having dispatched the Preface, we come now to the Book itself, in which the Author, the late Ch—w—n, first presents us with Copies or Extracts of the Deeds and Wills, whereby the Donations of the three Great Benefactors are convey'd. The Publication of these at first View seems to carry the Air of a well-meaning and Publick Spirit. But alas it too plainly appears to be a Shew to captivate the Minds of the Vulgar, and to amuse their Eyes, whilst at Heart he had a private Interest to serve by it. That this was the Author's Motive to publish the Wills, and Monumental Inscriptions of the Benefactors, is clear to a Demonstration. For it has been already too apparent, that he has taken down, or defaced, as far as he could, the Monuments of their Goodness, tho' he would be thought solicitous to preserve their Inscriptions; and if we may be allow'd the Expression, he has Interr'd some of their Charities, tho' he would be esteem'd scrupulous to record the Places of their Interment. Having set forth the Extracts of their Deeds (§§) and Wills, He gives us, or pretends to give us, the L---d Ch---r's Decree concerning the Charity-Estates, to which he prefixes, what is call'd the Name of the Cause, and therein exhibits not only the Names of the Relators, or Plaintiffs in the Cause on Behalf of the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the Town of N—k; but the Names of the then present M—y—r and Al—m—n as Defendants. We do not see, that any Good Reason can be given, why the Au-

P 4

thor should specify the Names of the M--y--r, and every
 Al--m--n in so particular a Manner, whereby he has done
 what he could to hand down the Memories of them to Pos-
 terity, as of Persons charg'd with the odious Crimes of a-
 busing their Trusts, and misapplying the Publick Money.
 This is a needless Insult upon the Memories of such, as are
 Deceas'd, and a shocking Compliment to those, who are Li-
 ving. The Decree, which this Author has publish'd to the
 Infinite Discredit of Himself, his F---r and B---r, whose
 Conduct has been directly opposite to it in many important
 Instances already set forth, the Decree, we say, would have
 had the same Force, and been equally observ'd by worthy
 Trustees, if the particular Christian and Surnames of the
 M-y-r and every Al--m--n had been omitted. Let the Wri-
 ter be asked, whether He would not be a little disturb'd, if
 we had publish'd his Name to the World in this Answer to
 his Book; or whether He, who must be dismally conscious
 to himself of his own various (**) Breaches of Trust, would
 not conceive himself to be most sadly us'd, if the Com-
 plaint, which may in a short Time, without proper Satis-
 faction, be brought against him, in order to call him to an
 Account for them, should be publish'd in Print with his
 Name at full Length; or lastly, if he could imagine, that
 the Order to be made thereupon would be Printed and Re-
 printed Fifty, an Hundred, or perhaps two Hundred Years
 hence, and so on, with his Name in the Front of it, as the
 Capital Adversary against the Rights of the Town; would
 he not entertain the Thought with Horror, and consider
 himself as One, who was to be continually hung up in Effi-
 gy, to be gaz'd at by all future Generations, by Way of
 Terror to all Succeeding Ch--w--ns? From hence then, it
 is hoped, this late Ch--w--n will be convinc'd, how Un-
 handsomely he has treated the Members of the Corporation
 by an unnecessary Publication of their particular Names.

But he has acted a much worse Part in this Affair, than
 the Generality of Readers, without some Assistance, may
 be able to discover. For he has with a malicious Intent in-
 serted likewise at full Length the Name of the Vicar of N--k
 amongst the Defendants, as if He had been involv'd equally
 with the Corporation in the Charge of Misapplications and
 Abuses, the Contrary whereof the Author very (§§) well
 knew to be the Case of the Vicar; but it seems, he resolv'd
 to follow the Example, and perhaps Directions of his F--r,
 who has attempted, with unwearied Industry in all Places,
 to vilify and blast, if possible, the Reputation of this same
 Person, because he has been the most Indefatigable Opposer

of His and his Family's Proceedings against the Decree, and against the Parish. He it was, who always stood in the Front of the Battle to cover and defend the Charity Estates, in the midst of all the Darts of Defamation thrown against him, particularly by the F—r of this late Ch—w—n, who acted, as if he thought, that the most politick Method he could take to conceal the Unfairness of his own Proceedings, and divert Others from the Knowledge of Real Facts, would be to load the Opposing Trustee with all the Falshoods he could invent, and thereby draw the Attention of Men another Way, that the Severity of Truth against Himself might be either not Known, or not Believ'd. We are very credibly inform'd, that to serve his Purposes he has not scrupled confidently to utter the most injurious Calumnies against Worthy Men, tho' they have been instantly disproved to his very Face.

It is true, that Dr. W—n, the Vicar, was made a Defendant in the Cause, not by way of Charge or Impeachment, but with his own Consent, and by Way of Assistance to the Parishioners; and therefore when the Cause was heard, and determined (**) against the Corporation, the present L—d Ch—r decreed, that all the Defendants, *except the Defendant W—n*, should pay Costs of Suit; Nay, his L—dsh—p was pleased to order, that *the Defendant W—n, should be paid His Costs*; and yet this Exception and Distinction between the Defendants, so very Remarkable, the Author out of his abundant Rancour has purposely omitted. It would be doing, he thought, too much Justice to the Vicar to take Notice of it. But the more he is determined to withhold Justice from Dr. W—n, it becomes the more necessary for some other Hand to render it to Him; and the rather, as He was the first Person, who gave a very full and clear Account of all the several Deeds and Wills of the three great Benefactors to the Town, M—s, B—n, and P—t, and, towards the Recovery of their Estates to the proper Uses, joined in the Expence, with other Inhabitants, to carry on the Suit against the Corporation, till the Dispute was happily determined by the Decree.

It would perhaps increase the Envy of this Author, if we proceeded to relate, what pass'd five or six Years afterwards, the extraordinary Pains, and very large Expences, which Dr. W—n, singly, without receiving any Contributions from others (tho' Subscriptions had been generously set on Foot) took upon himself in a second Suit, which he commenc'd against the Corporation, in order to procure the right

and regular Application of certain Rents due to the Town (***) and particularly to the Poor, by which Means He caused several Sums of Money to be distributed amongst them, which before had been withheld. It would wound the Spirit of this late Ch--w--n still deeper, if we once more mentioned the Name of him, who with an unwearied Constancy, and at his own proper Expence, both in Town and Country, supported the Rights and Liberties of the Parishioners in the Election of Ch--w--ns, when this mighty Man attempted to frighten and bully the Inhabitants out of their Choice, by commencing a Suit against them in the Spiritual Court, hoping to effect from their Apprehensions of an expensive Contest, what he could not carry by any other Means. And we cannot help saying, that if the Liberties of the Inhabitants in their Elections of Parish-Officers had not been vindicated at that Critical Juncture, the Publick Benefactions themselves, for which they are the Trustees, must in all Probability have sunk together with the Liberties of the Parish. We shall conclude this Head with a solemn Declaration, that not only common Justice has mov'd us, but the uncommon Malice displayed on all Occasions by this late Ch--w--n, and his Family against Dr. W--n, has rous'd us up to say More of his Publick-Conduct, than we intended, and Less could not be said to place it in its true Light.

But whilst we are in this just way of Commendation, we must not omit to mention with a peculiar (§§) Respect Mr. S--m--l F-----r, one of the Plaintiffs recorded by this Author in the Cause against the Corporation, whose indefatigable Diligence in bringing the Suit to its happy Conclusion cannot be sufficiently commended. He was a sincere, Sensible, and Public-spirited Man, and his Death was a Loss not to his Friends only, but to the Town in general: This Tribute of Praise, which we pay with Pleasure, and in Return for Pleasure receiv'd from his honest and frequent Conversation, is undeniably due to the Memory of Him, who contributed so largely in all Respects to revive the Praises due to the Memories of three Glorious Benefactors, and particularly by his Personal Endeavours to recover their charitable Donations, and retrieve them from that State of Disorder, Mismanagement, and Misapplication, in which they had lain for a great Number of Years, and to which this Author has employ'd so much Pains, and run such violent Lengths to reduce them again.

Having paid this Debt of Approbation to the Gentlemen, whose Names deserve to be honourably mentioned for carrying on the said Suit (tho' other Persons merit much from

the Town for their eminent Zeal, and generous Subscriptions in the same Cause) we proceed to examine, what the Author in the next Place calls P. 73.

(**) *Extract from the Answer of the M--y--r and Al--m--n, Sworn, &c. touching other Charities than those of M---s, B---n, and P-----t.*

Upon a Perusal of this Extract it appears to us, that the Publisher of it has not done that Justice to the Poor, which might have been expected from so conscientious a Ch--w--n and Trustee. In P. 77. He tells us, *that the M--y--r and Al--m--n by their Answer say, That A--th--y C--ll--w--d gave his House in St-----dm--n St--t to the said M--y--r and Al--m--n for ever, to the Use of the Corporation.* This we believe to be an Untruth; for we are willing to persuade ourselves, that they would not take so false an Oath, Mr. C--ll--w--d having left the abovementioned House by his Will, *not to the Use of the Corporation, but to the Corporation for the Use of the Poor.* Whatever Excuses the Author of this Book may make for this Injury to the Poor, he has no other way to vindicate Himself but by producing or declaring the Copy, from which he transcrib'd the Corporation's Answer. If the Falshood of that Copy does not acquit him, he must be content to be thought Guilty of being the False Original; and in that Case we think it incumbent upon him not only to recant his Error in the clearest Terms, but to ask Pardon of such of them, the said M--y--r and Al--m--n, as are now Living, in the same Public Manner, as he has charged them in his Book with Swearing to a Falshood. (§§)

But there are two Extraordinary Facts, the Account whereof we have receiv'd from a Gentleman of strict Integrity, which give us the strongest Reasons to conclude, that the Assertion of the late Ch--w--n in his Book about the Disposition of Mr. C--ll--w--d's House *for the Use of the Corporation*, P. 77. was advanced with an ill Design: The B---r of the late Ch--w--n, who is the T--n C--k, always delivers a Rentroll, which he expressly calls, The Rentroll of the Corporation Estate, every Year to the New Ch---rl--in, by which he is to collect their Rents. In this Rentroll he has constantly taken particular Care to insert the House of Mr. C--ll--w--d, as if it did belong to the Corporation, and the Poor had no Right or Claim to it. This Abuse the T--n Cl--k has regularly, we might rather say, irregularly, continued to practice for several Years, tho' he has been frequently advertised by a Trustee to place that House in the Catalogue of the Charity Estates, and has been

told every Year, how Unfair that Practice was, and how Pernicious it might prove, as it might be a Means to defraud the Poor of their Rights by misleading the Corporation to dispose of the Rents of that House, which are considerable, to its own Use. But Representations of that Kind have had no Effect, and the House still remains in the Rentroll, as a Part of the Corporation Estate, out of which he has by his own Writing, if we may use the Expression, ejected the Poor, as the late (**) Ch---w---n has dispossessed them of it, as much as he could, by his Book. Thus the two B--s appear to us to have confederated together to confirm their own Acts against the Rights of the Poor.

But some curious or sagacious Inquirers may perhaps be asking, whether, notwithstanding this Author's Book, and his B----'s Rentroll, the Poor have not regularly, for several Years, or perhaps Time out of Mind, received the Rents of Mr. C--ll--w--d's House, or whether the Corporation, *by some Mistake or other*, has applied them to other Purposes? This is a Question, the Solution of which we shall leave to the late Ch---w---n, his B---r, or F----r, who are the best acquainted with the State of those Affairs, and will, we hope, indulge us with a plain and clear Answer, if any Answer is given to this Book, that an End may be put to all further Cavils and Disputes in this Charity Concern.

In the mean Time we shall proceed to the other Fact relative to this very Affair, which adds more and more to our Astonishment. We can assure the Reader, from undoubted Authority, that No Distribution of Mr. C--ll--w--d's Rents amongst the Poor is now made, such Distribution having been expressly forbidden by the F----r of this late Ch--w--n. What therefore the Author of *an Account of the Donations* has affirm'd in his Book, and his B-----r has maintained in his Rentroll, as if Mr. C--ll--w--d's House did belong to (§§) the Corporation, seems at last to be supported in Fact by the F---r, who at this very Time causes the Rents of that House to be withheld from the Poor, to whose Use it is expressly devised by Will. It is dreadful for Persons to be in Want, but doubly grievous to be in Want of their Own to supply their daily Necessities. But we will say in Commendation of the F---r of this late Ch--w--n, that when Dr. W-----n urg'd the Unreasonableness and Cruelty of his not suffering the Poor to receive their own Money, He did not so much as Attempt to assign or avow any Reason for his inexcusable Conduct; tho' the true Reason is well understood.

So much for Mr. C--ll--w--d's Charity. As to the other Donations left to the Poor, which the Author of the Account of Donations has omitted, we are credibly inform'd, an Account of them will be publish'd, together with a Copy of the Decree, in a more full and perfect Manner than the Author has thought fit to exhibit them.

We are now happily arriv'd at the Close of this Author's Performance, which he is pleas'd (**) to dignify with the Title of Observations, P. 79, 80. He is very Angry with two Articles of Expence, viz. the Monies Spent upon Perambulations, and Visitation Dinners. These, he observes, might be well sav'd; and we condemn them equally with Him, whenever they exceed the Bounds of Reason and Moderation. But whatever Air of Parsimony he affects, he will appear to every unthinking, and unprejudiced Person, who recollects, or reviews the numerous Instances of his Mismanagements, to have at Heart not so much the Saving of Money to the Parish, as the Saving of it to himself and his Family. This Author seems not to be able to bear the Thought, that Others should get any Thing, tho' never so little. Let him but recount the several exorbitant Sums receiv'd by his B----r for Leases unfairly granted by Himself, and then let him grudge, if he can, the honest Butcher the Sale of a Leg of Mutton, or a Loyn of Veal, and the merry Alehouse-keeper the vending of a few Dozen of Liquor. It is evident beyond all Contradiction from the Conduct of this Author, that his Proposal of good Husbandry did not arise from a Regard to the Parish; for if that Motive had been Predominant in him, his Conduct would have been agreeable to that Principle throughout the whole (§§) Administration of his Office----He would not have dissolv'd the Bargains publickly and fairly made for three Years, Bargains very easy for the Tenants, as appear'd from the above-mention'd Biddings in the Church, and have taken off the Land-tax and Quitrents from Them, amounting to a considerable Sum, and thrown All upon the Parish of N---k for the Term of Twenty-one Years. Horrible Difference to the Parish.—He never would have consented to let a Farm at 15 *l.* a Year to One, who was no Freeholder, and without requiring any Security from him; and yet reject an Offer of 16 *l.* a Year made for the same Farm by a Freeholder, and with Security undeniable---He never would have order'd above 24 *l.* to be paid for a Chest, when Another equally useful might have been had for 4 *l.* nor have set his Hand to a Lease for Thirty-one

Years of three Houses at N-----k at 1 l. 10 s. a Year, which might have been let at 4 l. 10 s. a Year at least.--- After these and other arbitrary Diminutions of the Publick Rents, and Prodigality of the Publick Money, this late Ch--w--n can never with any tolerable Face pretend, that he had the Interest of the Town at Heart, or that he was sincerely desirous to save all the Money to (**) it that he could. But should it be allow'd, that from a Publick Spirit, a Quality, which we have proved him to be a Stranger to, he had lessened the Expences, which the Parish usually paid at Visitations, and Possessionings, the Performance of one or two Actions, (though Good in themselves, and even proceeding from a Right Motive) can never wipe off the Blemish of numberless notorious Mismanagements; nor can the saving of 5 or 6 l. make any Reparation for the Loss of abundantly more than so many Hundreds, which in Honour and Conscience he should and might have saved, or obtained for the Parish.

In methodizing, for the Use of the Reader, a Variety of Matter, which we had from Time to Time collected on this Subject, we forgot to mention, that we were curious enough to enquire, how it came to pass, that the late Ch--w--n could prevail with the Majority of the Trustees to act, jointly with him, in so wild, so weak, and so audacious a Manner against the plain Words of the Decree, and against their own Rights; and particularly, what could influence the M--y--r of the Town, one of the Trustees, who took a Solemn Oath upon his Entrance into Office to act (§§) justly and impartially by all Men in all Respects, (and was certainly oblig'd to do so without an Oath) What, we say, could influence him to go into the unjustifiable Measures of this late Ch--w--n? The Answer given to this Inquiry will be best communicated by the following Piece of History, which we had from indubitable Authority. One of the Trustees of the Charity Estates took upon him to expostulate one Day with the M--y--r of the Town for voting with this Ch--w--n, and lending his Assistance to carry certain Points, which he explain'd to him to be directly contrary to Reason, Justice, and the Decree. The M--y--r answer'd with an Air of Carelessness, That this Ch--w--n had promis'd to give him a Bond of Indemnification, and therefore he resolv'd to be directed by him in Matters relating to the Decree, which he thought Him (this Ch--w--n) more capable of understanding. The other told him, that no Man could indemnify him for what he had done. No! says the M--y--r, that's Strange in-

deed. The Trustee replied, that the Ch—w—n might indemnify him from the Expence of a Suit which might be brought against him, and some other Trustees; but he could not indemnify him from the unavoidable Vexations, (**) which attend a Contest at Law; nor could he indemnify him from the continual Scorns and Reproaches, which his Neighbours would cast upon him for voting away their Rights and Properties; or from those Self-Condemnations and Stings of Conscience, which would perpetually gall and disquiet him, when his Hurry, and Pride of Power were at an End; That these were Mortifications, from which the very Indemnifier could not indemnify himself. Besides, continued he, are you sure, Mr M—y—r, that this Saving-Harmless Gentleman will not, on some Pretence or other, dispute with you the Import or Intention of his own Bond, which may be drawn with such Limitations and Restrictions, as you may not be aware of? If you pretend, that you cannot understand the plain Words of the Decree, I am perswaded, you cannot comprehend the Meaning of a Number of dubious Expressions, which may be thrown into the Condition of a Bond; and you will do well to consider, whether he, who has openly and wilfully abus'd his Publick Trust, is the fittest Person to be Trusted? Whilst you think, that you are secure against all Attacks and Dangers, you may find yourself unhappily plac'd betwixt two Fires, the one from the Town, and the other from your Indemnifying (§§) Engineer. But if you will regard my Opinion, there is no Occasion at all for you to take any Bond of Indemnification. Do but bring along with you a sincere Resolution to act with Impartiality, and Integrity, and to adhere closely to the Decree, which is express'd in the clearest Terms, and you may depend upon it, you will not want none to defend you; your own Actions will be your amplest Security; your Innocence will be your best Protection. Be assured, it does not require an extraordinary Degree of Understanding to distinguish what is Right, and what is Wrong; and Men usually commit Acts of Injustice more through the Want of Honesty, than the Want of Judgment. Pray, for Example's Sake, if a Decree directs you in the plainest Words to pay all just and necessary Demands out of any Estate committed to your Trust, does it require any mighty Penetration to determine, whether you shall Vote for the Payment of those Demands or not? Or if you are directed by a Decree to lay out certain Monies arising out of Mr. M——s's Estate in the Reparation of the Church, or some

other good Work for the Common Weal of the Town, you have Understanding enough to know without resorting to a *Counsellor*, that you are not to expend that Money in a Law-Suit ; or whenever you are disposed to read, you (**) may easily perceive, that the L——d C———r has ordered, that the Receiver of the Two Charity Estates shall deposit the Money within eight Days after the Receipt thereof, in an Iron-Chest in the Treasury Room, and if the Ch—w—n, his F——r, and B——r clamour for an Hour together against the Reasonableness of the Order, or oppose the paying any Obedience to it, you can judge, I hope, without the Help of another Man's Capacity, that it is safer, and wiser, and more honourable for you to follow the Directions of the Ch———r, than the Opinion of the Ch—w—n and his Family. The Trustee was proceeding to reason in this plain Manner, when the M-y-r rose up, and pretending much Business at Home, hurried away in Confusion ; but yet with a Resolution (as the Trustee then feared, and Time afterwards shewed) to be guided by this Ch—w—n, and to trust blindly and implicitly to his Indemnification, as Catholics do to a Popish Absolution ; for he afterwards plunged himself, under the Influence of this Leader, into the most manifest Crimes of Injustice against the Town with as much Confidence, as if he had got an infallible Absolution for All in his Pocket.

(§§) We have set forth the Substance of this Conversation betwixt the M-y--r and one of the other Trustees the more fully, not only to shew the Reader, what Artifices had been used by this Ch—w—n (who, it is observable, dealt much in his Offers of Bonds of Indemnification) to betray a Magistrate into wrong Measures by getting the better of his Understanding, and lulling his Fears and Conscience asleep with the Promise of an Indemnification ; but to forewarn all future M-y--rs against swallowing the like stupifying Opiate, and to take this Opportunity of advising them—to preserve their own Integrity, and to trust to their own Judgment, how ordinary soever it may be, in all Points of the Decree, where it is certain, there are no Mysteries or Perplexities to disturb and puzzle the Mind ; but every Direction seems purposely to be suited to the lowest Capacity ; and to persuade them—that no Man of Quality will require them to sacrifice their Consciences, and give up the Rights of the Town in Violation of their Trust and their Oath, whatever a St--w--d, actuated by his own private Views, may insinuate or pretend ;

and lastly to assure them—that whatever present Profits they may receive from some for their mean and dishonourable Compliances, they will be looked upon by Others and ought to consider themselves as in the Condition of Slaves, who are poorly paid for their Hard and Dirty Work—and that the only Way whereby they can recommend themselves (**) effectually to the World, and justly expect any great and lasting Advantages with a comfortable Enjoyment of them, is, to deserve the Characters of Honest Men, by discharging their Duty, especially in Matters of Trust, a Failure wherein is the Worst and most Aggravated Kind of Injustice. Thus much out of Regard to the Corporation, the Honour and Dignity whereof we would preserve.

But we cannot take our Leave of this Indemnifying Author without remarking the hypocritical and canting Formality, wherewith he takes his Leave of the Parishioners, P. 80. He says, *the above Observations are given as Examples of Caution to the Parish Officers, who may save much Money by due Consideration, and careful Management, as in these, so in many other Articles, which come before them.* We reply, that the Facts above related, and the Observations made by Way of Answer to his Book, are likewise given as *Examples of Caution to the Parish-Officers*, that they do not tread in the Steps of so unworthy a Ch—w—n, that they do not subject themselves to the like Infamy, as this Parish-Officer has; an Infamy, which will be of much longer Duration, than the Term of his Leases, though stretch'd to Thirty-one Years; but that (to borrow some of his Expressions) *by due Consideration and careful Management in all Articles, which may come before them*, they may faithfully and impartially execute their Trusts, and leave their Names recorded with Honour to latest Posterity.

(§§) And now—After all our Remarks on the Writings and Actions of this late Ch—w—n, which *Charity* itself has obliged us to make, we could not forgive ourselves, if we omitted One Particular Observation, which may possibly tend to his Honour; and the rather, as it is the only One we can make to his Advantage. We must therefore acknowledge, that, notwithstanding what has been before remark'd on this Head, we cannot controvert his Claim to some Degree of Merit for that singular Veneration, which He is pleased to express for the Memories of the Glorious Benefactors of the Town of N——k. In P. 4. of his Preface, *It was thought a Debt*, says he, *due to the Memory of our Great Benefactors to render it as sacred and lasting*

as was possible : to this End the Places are observed of their Interment, and the Epitaphs, or Monumental Inscriptions are respectively added at the Close of each Donation. An excellent Thought ! (and maugre all that has been said) who can question, but it was inspired by an Excess of Goodness and Gratitude ? Accordingly in P. 26, of his Book He tells us, that Mr. M——s was buried in the Middle of the Chancel of the Parish-Church of S——y, and that his Epitaph is inscrib'd upon a Gravestone in Brass, and is as follows.

Here lieth Mr. T—— M——s Archdeacon of the East Rideing in the Metropolitan Church of York, and Parson of this Church, which died the 18th Day of August, Anno Domini 1550, whose Soule God Pardon.

(**) Inspired by the Bright Example of this Incomparable Writer, and Epitaph-Transcriber, we have likewise thought it a Debt due to the Memory of a late departed Ch—w—n, to render it as sacred and lasting as was possible ; to this End the Place is observed of his future Interment, and his intended Epitaph or Monumental Inscription is added at the Close of this Book. His Corpse, we are informed, remains still above Ground, and after a reasonable Time of State (suitable to his Alliance with a certain Esquire long ago extinct, which his F——r has lately claim'd) it is to be carried with all proper Solemnity to the Church, attended by Twenty-six Mourners in Heart as well as Habit, who had flatter'd themselves with the Hopes of the like Advantageous Leases from him, as he had graciously bestow'd upon some at *Ev--rt--n*, and others at *N—k*. But cruel Fate put an End to their Expectations. It was at first reported, that he was to be interr'd in that Inclosure near to the Bellfrey in the Parish Church of *N—k*, wherein never Man before was laid ; because There he once made such a Figure, as no Man before ever did. But it was at length determin'd by his F——r, that he should be laid near to the Grave of Mr. M——s ; this latter by his large Charities having been a most generous Benefactor to the Town of *N——k*, the former, Out of the same Charities, being a most kind Benefactor to his own Family.

(**) T H E

E P I T A P H.

Here lieth * * * * *

WH O had an Education, which promised well ;
But unhappily finish'd it under the Care of his F—r
And gave a Specimen of his Improvements under so notable
a Tutor,
By publishing an *Account of the Donations to the Parish of*
N—k ;
Wherein he took away, as far as he could, the Rights of
the Poor to One Donation,
And very politickly bestow'd it upon the Corporation.
If the Reader asks, of what yearly Value it is ?
It is more than sufficient to pay the Salaries
Both of a R—cd—r, and a T--n-Cl--k.

Who by mean Sollicitations, false Pretences, and a stolen
Interest,
Procur'd the Removal of an excellent Ch--w--n ;
And having crept Himself into the Office,
Exercis'd it with Injustice, Partiality, and Tyranny.

Who by a Fetch unexampled set aside a Person of Di-
stinction,
Fairly and Unanimously elected R c-r-d-r,
And with an Assurance unparalleled stept into his Place,
Forfeiting all Pretensions to Honour by his Manner of
acquiring it.

But his Art of supplanting the Worthy
Was the least of his Political Virtues.

(§§) Aided, and encouraged by an Unnatural F—r
And clamorously supported by a Rapacious B—r,

(**) 75.

(§§) 76.

He sunk the Value of one Charity Estate at *Ev--rt--n* for
21 Years,

To advance a Scheme of Interest for the Family.

He leas'd out another Charity-Estate at *N---k*,

Not only at an Under Value, but for a longer Term of
31 Years ;

Thereby exercising a Power,

No more to be reconcil'd with the Laws of Con-
science,

Than with the Laws of the Land, which had exprefs-
ly forbid it.

So unfaithful a Dispenser of the Public Money,

That where it ought Not to be expended, he lavish'd it away,

And where it Ought to be distributed, he withheld it,

In Breach both of his Trust and his Oath ;

Treating the just Demands of honest Tradesmen,

And the wise Directions of a L—d C—r,

With equal Disdain and Contempt.

Who thought it not sufficient to have given in one Year

Numerous Instances of his Treachery against the Town,

But, as if he assum'd fresh Boldness from his very Crimes,

He had the Confidence to set Himself up a second Time,

As a Candidate for the Office he had so much abus'd.

But to the Good Fortune of the Parish,

To the secret Joy of many of his own voting Party,

He met with a severe Repulse,

A Repulse aggravated by the strongest Marks of
Scorn and Aversion ;

In Consequence whereof he died

The 28th Day of *March, Anno Domini, 17—*.

Whose Soul God pardon—.

When the above-written Epitaph shall very properly be
engraven on a Plate of Brass, we are perswaded, every ho-
nest Parishioner will confirm, approve, and ratify the same.

(**) We now leave this History to the Parish, and hope,
it will be accepted and esteem'd as no unuseful *Donation*, or
unseasonable Testimony of our sincere Regard for their
Welfare ; to which we add our most hearty Wishes, that
the Town of *N---k* may be ever as remarkable for the
Uprightness of its Trustees, as for the Largeness of its Cha-
rity-Estates ; that it may emulate the noble Examples set
before it in the Metropolis of this Kingdom, not more
eminently distinguish'd by the Exercise of Liberality and

Beneficence in Cases of private and publick Distress, than by the faithful and disinterested Measures, whereby Works of that Kind are there managed and conducted.

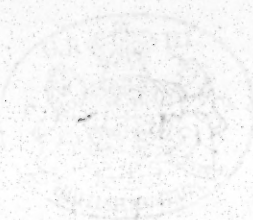
P O S T S C R I P T.

IT would be a Satisfaction to the Publick to be truly inform'd in a Matter, of which there is at present some Doubt, and that is, whether the T—n-Cl---k returned the Fees given to him by a certain Worthy young Man of Quality for the Instrument of the R-c-rd-rsh-p; for surely it could not but *be thought a Debt due* from the T—n-Cl--k to repay, or at least to make an Offer to repay those Fees, since his B—r, the late Ch--w--n, was (**) the sole Cause of his L-dsh-p's resigning the Place; and by a Stratagem too; of which we shall give a short Account, as it may serve to explain one Part of *the Epitaph*, which otherwise may not be understood by some of our Readers--This late Ch-w-n then, with an Excess of Assurance hardly to be equalled, attended the M-y-r and Al--m--n, though he alone was uninvited, to the Seat of the young Nobleman, whose well-known Heroick Qualities and High Birth might, one would imagine, have defended him *from Invasions* at Home; There he very politely and genteelly told his L--dsh--p, that he was not qualified to hold the Place of R-c-r-d-r, which the M-y-r and Al--m--n, those ignorant People (for so in Effect he call'd them) had prevailed on him that Morning to do them the Honour to accept of—Such a Farce perhaps was scarce ever acted before—The T---n-Cl---k, in the Presence of the Corporation, with one Speech compliments his L--dsh--p with the Place, and his B-----r, the late Ch--w--n, with Another immediately takes it away from him,-- and then slips into it himself.

(**) 78.

F I N I S.

1000



3. (19)

